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Copy

Qav. 7018: 2:10

See. Despatch 287.

Confidential.

RETAIN
Schedule No 169.

PROCEEDINGS of COURT of ENQUIRY

DISTURBANCE IN CAIRO

31st 7. 1915.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1 45/6/24

HJW/EAD

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE 438/1/2

Qa.

ADVANCE AUSTRALIA

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS "ADMINAUST, LONDON"
CABLE ADDRESS "STRALIS, LONDON"
TELEPHONE VICTORIA 8360 (8 LINES)

DEFENCE D 1138 2 4

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F.

130, HORSEFERRY ROAD, LONDON, S.W.

CONFIDENTIAL.

11th August, 1917.

DESPATCH NO. 287.

The Secretary,
Department of Defence,
MELBOURNE.

Rioting at Cairo, July, 1915.

I confirm cables which have passed between us:-

From me: Dated 13.6.1917.

"Qa 9954 With reference rioting Cairo 31st July 1915. Army Council now submitting papers here suggesting that under similar circumstances were the rioters British troops they would pay awards made by General Officer Commanding in Chief in Egypt on advice of his Expert Assessors. Total amount involved £6,000. Court of Inquiry consisting of Major General Spens British, Colonel Linton Australian, Colonel Mackesy New Zealand, found originators of disturbance were Australians. Great weight of evidence showed large number of rioters were Australians. There may have been isolated cases looting soldiers other countries and civilians. Matter so old nobody here fully conversant with facts. Army Council asking early decision. Shall we pay. There seems no reasonable alternative."

Dated 2.7.1917.

"Qa.10938. Refer our cablegram Qa.9954 June 13th Cairo Riots. War Office pressing for reply."

MARTIAL LAW REGIMENT AM 10 OCT 17 OFFICE

From you: Dated 31s7.1917.

"WX 168 Your telegram 13th June Qa 9954 Have asked Stralis Cairo obtain and forward copies minutes of proceedings and subsequent board."

From me: Dated 2.8.1917.

"Qa 12810 Your WX 168 31st July. War Office states claimants clamouring for settlement their claims. Would therefore appreciate decision as soon as possible. We are sending you all our papers this subject in personal custody Officer returning transport end this month."

Certain

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Certain documents relative to this riot were brought under my notice a few weeks ago by the War Office for the first time. Presumably the position is well-known to Brig.-General V. Sellheim, who was in command of the Administrative Base at Cairo, but as we had no knowledge of the affair, the only course open to us was to peruse the papers to see whether we could get to know sufficient of it to be able to make a recommendation to you. Unfortunately, the only Australian Member of the Board of Inquiry - Col. R. Linton - has since been killed, so that we are unable to get any information from that source, but it seems fairly certain that Australians were the originators of the riot, and took the leading part in it, and if liability is going to be admitted at all, I think the only fair thing is to accept the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry and pay accordingly.

The War Office is pressing us for a reply, but we have pointed out that as it took them nearly two years to get the matter in such a state as to be fit to present to us for decision, they can hardly expect us to reply within a few weeks. This has put them in a cleft stick, and all they can do is to point out that as the claimants are clamouring for a settlement, and are loud in their condemnation of the protracted delay, they would appreciate an early decision.

Major Forsyth, the Officer who was recently commanding the Australian Administrative Base, Egypt, will be returning in a fortnight's time by the transport "Ulysses", and I am sending the file by him personally, and he will hand it over to you as soon as he arrives. We have taken copies of the important letters.

I notice that you have cabled Egypt to send you the papers, and if they have any, doubtless they will forward them.

In conclusion, may I point out that from all the information I can get, this rioting was not an unmixed evil, because

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because it forcibly drew the attention of the "powers that be" in Egypt, to certain glaring hot-beds of immorality, and steps were taken thereafter, which, although unhappily not sufficiently radical, helped to protect our troops.

I await the favour of your cabled reply.

Colonel.
Commandant.

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COPY.

WAR OFFICE,
LONDON,S.W.1.
6thAugust, 1917.

0143/1181

Sir,

With reference to your letter, No.Qa.7018/2/10, of the 14th June and War Office letter number as above of the 22nd May, concerning the settlement of claims arising out of the riot in Cairo on the 31st July, 1915,I am directed to enquire whether you are now in a position to reply to War Office letter number as above of the 22nd May.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd) G.W.LAMBERT,
for the Assistant Financial Secretary.

The Commandant,
Australian Imperial Force,
Administrative Headquarters,
130, Horseferry Road,
S.W.1.

PM11.OCT.17
OF DEFENCE

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

OUTWARD.

The Administrative Headquarters,Audtralian Imperial Force.

COPY OF CABLEGRAM.

No.Qa.12810 Despatched 2nd August, 1917.

From. Adminaust LONDON.

To. Defence. MELBOURNE.

Qa 12810. Your WX 168 31st July aaa War Office states claimants clamouring for settlement their claims aaa Would therefore appreciate decision as soon as possible aaa We are sending you all our papers this subject in personal custody Officer returning transport end this month.

ADMINAUST.

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HJW/EAD.

Qa.7018/2/10.

2nd August, 1917.

The Secretary,

WAR OFFICE.

With reference to your letter of 23rd May, 1917, No.D143/1181 (F.2), concerning damage done by Australian troops in Cairo in July, 1915, - I have been in telegraphic communication with the Department of Defence, Melbourne, on the subject of the settlement of the claims, and they have now cabled asking us to send the papers to them so that they may arrive at a decision. This will mean a delay, but under the circumstances, it seems unavoidable.

Colonel.
Commandant.

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INWARD.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

COPY OF CABLEGRAM.

No.Wx.168. Date and time received at Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F 31.7.17. 9.30 a.m.

From. Secretary for Defence. Melbourne.

To. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. London.

Wx.168. Your telegram 13th June Qa.9954 have asked Stralis, Cairo obtain and forward copies minutes of proceedings and subsequent board.

Defence.

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OUTWARD.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

COPY OF CABLEGRAM.

No.Q.12249 Despatched 24th July, 1917.

From. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. LONDON.

To. Defence. MELBOURNE.

Qa.12249.

Reference our cablegram Qa.9954. June 13th and Qa.10938 2nd July, Cairo Riots aaa When can we expect reply.

ADMINAUST.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

OUTWARD.

The ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS,AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

COPY OF CABLEGRAM.

No.Qa. Deppatched 2nd July,1917.

From. Administrative HeadQuarters,A.I.F. LONDON.

To. Defence. MELBOURNE.

Qa. 10938.

Refer our cablegram Qa.9954 June 13th Cairo Riots saa War Office pressing for reply.

STRALIS.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Qa.7018/2/10.

14th June.1917.

The Secretary,
War Office,
London.

With reference to your letter dated 23rd ult. No.0143/1181 (F.2.), and your reminder of 12th instant of the same No., about the settlement of claims in connection with the rioting in Cairo in July, 1915,- the matter is a little difficult for us to deal with, because it is so old, and the papers are more or less scattered. We have, however, taken it up with the Department of Defence, Melbourne, by cable, and we expect to be able to give you a difinite decision in the course of a day or two. You may rest assured that we shall not hold it a day longer that is necessary.

Colonel.
Commandant.

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OUTWARD.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

COPY OF CABLEGRAM.

No.Qa. 9954. Despatched 13th June, 1917.

From. Administrative Headquarters, A.I.F. LONDON.
To. Secretary, Defence Department. MELBOURNE.

Qa.9954.

With reference rioting Cairo 31st July, 1915 aaa Army Council now submitting papers here suggesting that under similar circumstances were the rioters British troops they would pay awards made by General Officer Commanding in Chief in Egypt on advice of his Expert Assessors aaa Total amount involved £6,000 aaa Court of Inquiry consisting of Major General Spens, British, Colonel Linton, Australian, Colonel Mackesy, New Zealand, found originators of disturbance were Australians aaa Great weight of evidence showed large number rioters were Australians aaa There may have been isolated cases looting soldiers other countries and civilians aaa Matter so old nobody here fully conversant with facts aaa Army Council asking early decision aaa Shall we pay aaa there seems no reasonable alternative.

STRALIS.

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7018/2/10.

0145/1181. (F,2)

WAR OFFICE,
L O N D O N,S.W.1.
May 1917.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to forward the enclosed correspondence concerning damage done by Australian Troops in Cairo on the night of the 31st July 1915, and to enquire whether the charges in respect of compensation for damage will be accepted against Commonwealth funds.

It will be observed that the awards shown on Schedule'A' have already been paid out to the claimants to the amount of £1154.18. 7½., while those on schedule 'b' have been referred for approval, as the General Officer Commanding in Chief has bo authority to settle claims in excess of £300 (three hundred pounds). With regard to the latter, I am to say that if the damage had been done by troops paid from Army Funds, the council would, subject to Treasury sanction, where necessary, have sanctioned the awards made by the General Officer Commanding in Chief, Subject to your concurrence, therefore, the Council propose to cable to the General Officer Commanding in Chief, sanctioning payment of the award not yet paid on the understanding that the charges will be eventually accepted against Commonwealth funds.

I am to request the favour of an early reply, and that you will return the enclosures to this letter therewith, as copies have not been retained.

I am,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant.
H.N.CUBITT.

The Commandant,
Administrative Headquarters,
Australian Imperial Force.

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(1) "A"

LIST of CLAIMS IN CONNECTION WITH DISTURBANCE IN ESBEKIEH DISTRICT ON 31st JULY 1915 FOR WHICH PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE.

Claimant.		Address.	Amount claimed.	Damage assessed and paid.
Lola Yanni.	Chemist.	Maidan Kantaret el Dikka.	£E.30 to 35	£10. 0. 0d.
Alexandre Lliades (In name of Carlo Grassi)	Tobacconist.	Wagh-el-Birka.	£E.248.10.	£50. 0. 0d.
Georges Georgales.	Store.	25 Wagh-el-Birka.	43.30.	£10. 0. 0d.
Universal Cigarette Stores.		Shops.No.5 - 40 Esbekieh.	£E.196.00.	£104. 0. 0d.
Saba Saad (Trustee for Sadre Bey Abdul)			-	5. 0. 0d.
Assad Tanour Mamour.	Restaurant.	15 Wagh-el-Birka.	£E. 38.26.	25. 0. 0d.
Mohammed Okasha.	Bootmaker.	13 " " "	£E.151.30.	76. 0. 0d.
Jeanne Caudrey.	Prostitute.	" " "	£E. 28.30.	23. 0. 0d.
Peppina Delsi	"	" " "	£E. 83.63.	15. 0. 0d.
Abraham Naggair.		11 " " "	£E.247.90.	125. 0. 0d.
" " (Injuries to hand, & Medical Fees)		" " "	-	115. 4. 7½d.
Ali Salama.	Coffee Shop.	9 " " "	£E. 11.50.	2.15. 0d.
Maria Volpe.	Prostitute.	9 " " "	£E.107.20.	25. 0. 0d.
Zakkia Wahbe-el Damiettia.	"	9 " " "	£E. 46.46.	1.10. 0d .
Karnick Makinadjian & Co.	Silk Stores.	Wagh-el-Birka.	£E.317.75.	85. 0. 0d.
Elina Christo Adolou.	Prostitute.	7 Kantaret el Dikka.	-	80. 0. 0d.
Foad Ghobrial.	Tobacconist.	" " "	£E. 59.50.	40. 0. 0d.
Nicolas Gavaias.	Shooting Gallery.	45 Wagh-el-Birka.	£E. 36.80.	8. 0. 0d.
		Forward.	£E.1646.01.	£800. 9. 7½d.

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Claimant.		Address.	Amount claimed.	Damage assessed and paid.
		Brought Forward.	£E.1646.01.	£800. 9. 7½d.
M. de Covatch.			£E. 29.00.	3. 0. 0d.
Mayer S. Toueg.	Tobacconist.	37 Wagh-el-Birka.	£E. 9.95.	9. 0. 0d.
Dimitri Likerdopulos.		Kantaret el Dikka.	£E. 116.20.	10. 0d.
Simon Makinadjian.	Silk Store etc.	Wagh-el-Birka	£E.374 .50.	125. 0. 0d.
Climan Cohen.	"	21 Wagh-el-Birka.	£E. 29.20.	5. 0. 0d.
Waba Bey Shalaby.		33 " " "	£E. 1.00	1 .0. 0d.
Costi Lazaridies.	Chemist.	" " "	£E. 9.15.	2. 5. 0d.
Costi Effstralin Patsatazias.		11 " " "	£E. 3.88.	2. 0. 0d.
Hasan Mustafa el Agadi.	Butcher.	9 " " "	£E. 5.00.	2.10. 0d.
Roupen Parseghian.		13 " " "	£E. 3.20.	1. 0. 0d.
Gharabed Ghahbzian.	Ice Cream Merchant.	7 " " "	£E. 5.40.	1.15. 0d.
Lucas Georgiou Lascaridies.		5 " " "	£E. .70.	14. 0d.
Pericles Costi Milingos.		" " "	"	1. 0. 0d.
Emmanciel Proestos.	Hotel.	Esbekieh.	"	15. 0d.
A.Loreto.	"	"	£E. 2.00.	2. 0. 0d.
Kyriacos, Barouxix & Co.	Cafe Louvre.		£E. 7.80	5. 0. 0d.
Stefano C. Paschali.	Baker.	7 Kantaret el Dikka.	£E. 21.44.	5. 0. 0d.
		Forward.	£E.2264.43.	£967.18. 7½d.

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Claimant.		Address.	Amount claimed.	Damage assessed and paid.
		Brought Forward.	£E.2264.43.	£967.18.7½d.
Georges Phonacis.	Hotel.	2 Darb el Baghdadi.	-	1.10. 0d.
Christos Spathariotis.	Tobacconist.	4 Clot Bey.	£E. 211.00.	61. 0. 0d.
Solomon Levi.	Store.	Clot Bey.	£E. 32.00.	7.10. 0d.
Rosa Yusef.	Prostitute.	11 Wagh-el-Birka.	£E. 100.00.	25. 0. 0d.
Birkit Girges and others.	Merchants.	49 " " "	£E. 300.00.	30. 0. 0d.
F. Nunn.	Ind Coopes United Service Bar.		£E. 28.55.	10.15. 0d.
Fannayiotis Theodoredes.	Chemist.	" " "	£E. 72.23.	20. 0. 0d.
Florica Caloyo.	Prostitute.	" " "	£E. 36.00.	10. 0. 0d.
Genaro Esposito.		" " "	£E. 39.32.	3. 0. 0d.
Cairo Fire Brigade.		General Fire Station.	£18. 5. 0d. Stg.	18. 5. 0d.
			£E.3101.32.	£1154.18. 7½d.

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"B".

LIST OF CLAIMS IN CONNECTION WITH DISTURBANCES IN ESBEKIEH DISTRICT ON 31st JULY 1915, FOR WHICH PAYMENT HAS NOT BEEN MADE.

Claimant's Name.	Amount Claimed.	Amount Awarded.
Trighides.))		
Christophides.)	£E.6890.00	£E.1500.00
)		
Coureas.)		
Pascali.	£E. 830.00	£E. 475.00
Chalaby and Pascali.	£E.2040.00	£E. 500.00
Coptic Patriarch.	£E.2000.00	£E. 300.00
Papazian.	£E.2780.00	£E.2000.00
Total.	£E.14540.00	£E.4775.00

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C O P Y.

13th April,

D.C.M.G.

I beg to enclose herewith the recommendations of Mr.Davis Bryan and myself as to the amounts of compensation to be paid in the outstanding cases of damage caused in the Esbekieh by the riots of 31st July 1915.

Two of the cases are in respect of damage to houses used as brothels and in which the riot probably originated.

The houses originally badly built were in a bad state of repair and so liable to damage by fire that the owners could not insure the,. on the other hand, owing to the fact that they were used as brothels they produced abnormal rents.

We decided that having regard to the fact that had these houses been burnt down normally the owners would have received no compensation and to the fact that inflated rents due to the user of the premises for imoral purposes had been obtained for many years at the most the owners should be paid on the basis of an insurance claim.

In the case of No.7 Qantaret el Dikka in which £6890 is claimed our award of £1500 is more than justified, by the fact that in 1903 the present owners valued the building and land at £2500 remarking at the time that the house needed rebuilding.

In the case of 49 Sharia Wagh el birket, the buildings consisted of ovens and a store the former erected by the tenant under an unexpired lease and we were unable to allocate the proportion in which the compensation should be divided.

In these cases we had the assistance of Mr. Frank Watson of the Public Works department who also advised the original Board of assessment.

The award to Pascali of £475 for damage to stock and fittings at No.49 Sharia Wagh el birket was the amount assessed by the original Board but the award was held up pending the settlement of the award relative to buildings.

The case of Papazian was a special one, his shop

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was some little distance away from the other damaged houses but it was broken open and the contents thrown into the street, a quantity of stuff was taken away and some more damage by the water from the fires, running down the street.

Several important account books and inventories were missing (Apparently destroyed in the riot) and the investigation into the claim was a very laborious business.

It is understood that in these cases as in the other arising out of this and the precious riot any payment made by the Military Authorities will be made as an act of grace and without any admission of liability.

(Sgd) G.E.JEFFS.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

COPY.

COURT OF ENQUIRY.

3947/A.

From.
Lieut-General Sir J.G. Maxwell,K.C.B.,K.C.M.G.,C.V.O.,D.S.O.,

To.
The Secretary,
War Office,London,S.W.

ARMY HEADQUARTERS,CAIRO.

13th September,1915.

Sir,

With reference to War Office cablegram No.20258 dated 11th instant , I have the honour to forward herewith the first part of the Proceedings of the Court of Enquiry assembled to investigate and report upon the circumstances connected with the disturbance in Cairo on the night of the 31st July,1915. The second part, dealing with the question of "losses and damage" will be forwarded as soon as completed.

(2) The necessary disciplinary action has been taken.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) J.G.MAXWELL,

Lieut-General,
Commanding the Force in Egypt.

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C O P Y.

H.Q.

The Force in Egypt.

I herewith forward the 1st Part of the Court of Enquiry of which I am President dealing with"the circumstances connected with the disturbance in Cairo on the night of the 31st July 1915 ".

The 2nd Part concerning the quest on of "all losses and damage" will be forwarded when completed -.

(Sgd) JAMES SPENS

Major-General,

President.
Court of Enquiry

Zeitun.
26 August 1915.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

PROCEEDINGS OF A COURT OF INQUIRY ASSEMBLED AT SOLDIERS' CLUB ESBEKIEH GARDENS, CAIRO, ON 3rd DAY OF AUGUST , 1915, at 10 a.m. BY ORDER OF THE G.O.C. IN C. EGYPT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORTING UPON THE DISTURBANCE IN CAIRO ON THE NIGHT OF 31ST JULY, 1915.

President: Major-General J. Spens, C.B., Commanding A. & N.Z. Trg. Depot.

Members: Colonel R. Linton, Comdg. 6th Inf. Bde. A.I.F.

Lieut. Col. C.E. Mackesy. Comdg. N.Z.M.R. Bde. Details.

IN ATTENDANCE: Captain Y.M. Spencer-Smith, Asst.Provost Marshal.

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to take evidence which is marked "A" and attached to the Proceedings.

The Court having carefully considered the evidence brought before them, submit their report:-

1. The whole occurrence was most sudden and unexpected.
2. The origin of the disturbance appears to have started in a Brothel in No. 9 Maidan Kantaira el Dikka - at about 7.30 p.m. on 31st July, 1915.
3. The cause of the trouble was a row between four to nine Australian soldiers and prostitutes - the reason for this on the one side, robbery of the soldiers by women, on the other side refusal to pay the women.
4. After the altercation a number of soldiers came out into the street and whatever was said to the crowd gathering outside, it seemed to inflame them to aggressive measures.
5. Soldiers in the crowd began by throwing missiles such as sticks and metal at windows which were broken and then followed articles of furniture which were thrown from the windows into the street, collected in a pile and set fire to.
6. The crowd appeared to be divided, the more unruly numbering anything up to 100 - the other portion being merely onlookers.

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7. The Picquet here appeared on the scene but was not of sufficient strength to deal with the crowd which now became more aggressive - and fire seemed to have started in No. 9 and adjacent houses. Looting of other houses and shops commenced at this time.

8. The Fire Engine arrived on the scene at about 8.40 p.m. but was prevented from carrying on its work by sympathisers with the rowdy element who broke the lamps and tried to damage the engine, and otherwise incapacitated its working; it retired but was shortly brought up again. The same opposition was met with, and when the hose pipes were laid out they were cut and stabbed and the engine was forced to retire to its station. Four houses were now burning fiercely.

9. At about 9 p.m. a great many Officers began to arrive on the scene and the more soberminded members of the crowd had begun to realise the seriousness of the position and what it involved, viz. heavy destruction of property and possible loss of life.

10. Steps were taken successfully, in several places simultaneously, to get some control over the active portion of the rioters.

11. Officers organised parties of volunteers to protect the fire engine (which returned about 9.30 p.m.) and hosepipes, and to prevent the looting which had taken place and also to check further lighting and growth of fires along the street.

12. From this time onwards, it was a question of how long it would take the firemen to overcome the flames, and things appeared to be in hand.

13. The Picquets both ordinary and special were now quite able to discharge their duties satisfactorily.

14. Inlying Picquets of the Yeomanry also formed cordons at intervals along the street. About 11 p.m. the Yeomanry Picquets were withdrawn. The streets were then cleared and men were posted on the damaged and looted houses in the street - which was closed to the general public.

15. The Picquets under circumstances of great difficulty discharged their duties most satisfactorily.

16.

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16. Every assistance was rendered by the Civil Police in dealing with the Civil portion of the crowd.

17. When called upon, the Fire Brigade acted with promptness and despatch.

In conclusion the Court is unanimously of opinion on the following points:-

1. That the originators of the disturbance were Australians.
2. The great weight of evidence shows that a very large number of the rioters were also Australians.
3. There may have been isolated cases of looting on the part of soldiers of other countries including the civilian population.

sgd. JAMES SPENS.
Major General.
President.

RICHARD LINTON,
Col.

C.E.R. MACKESY,
Lieut.-Col.

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EVIDENCE TAKEN ON TUESDAY MORNING, 3rdAUGUST, ON THE DISTURBANCE IN CAIRO, ON SATURDAY EVENING, 31st JULY, 1915.

The Board assembled, pursuant to order, at 10 a.m. and proceeded to take evidence.

Evidence of Private C. Robinson, Westminster Dragoons.

About 7.30 on Saturday evening I was going by Shepheard's Hotel in the direction of buildings at the top of Red Blind Street, and when outside House No. 11, a slight argument was going on between three men, who were Australian Infantry soldiers in soft felt hats. There was no crowd there when the argument started. I walked down, and being on the police, I saw this was a drunken argument between the three men. Shortly another man came up and I asked what the argument was, and at practically the same time a New Zealand Sergeant came downstairs. He seemed to be very cut about the head. The Sergeant came downstairs and a chair was thrown following after him. It appeared from others that the Sergeant had failed to pay the woman. On this the four men drew away, and several of their friends in the crowd, seeing that they were intoxicated and fearing trouble, called them away to the opposite side of the street. Opposite No. 11 there is a lavatory, and they took pieces of tile away from here, and began to throw them at the windows opposite. A small crowd then began to gather. Presently one of the four men threw a piece of stick at the house, and broke the gas lamp, and the flame from the lamp began to affect the wood of the balcony above. Seeing this was the commencement of a conflagration, I went back to the Barracks and reported it to Sgt. Kee, of the Main Guard. I saw no Picquet there.

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: How do you know it was a New Zealand Sergt. who came down?

ANSWER: I know him to be New Zealand by the red piping on his epaulettes, and the "N.Z."

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: The fire was supposed to start from the gas lamp

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CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF PTE. C. ROBINSON.

gas lamp in the street, which being broken set fire to the house. How do you account for this?

ANSWER: The lamp outside the shop - a private one - being broken, a flame shot up setting fire to the woodwork above.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF 2nd LIEUT. E.C. McBRYDE BROWN, 3rd TRAINING BATTALION, A.I.F.

I was in charge of the 5.30 Picquet on Saturday evening, and after doing our usual round, we had fallen out the picquet for ten minutes' rest at the Soldiers' Home when some foreigner came round and reported to me that about 20 soldiers were breaking up a house in the street commonly called Red Blind Street. I think No. 11 was the house. I marched the Picquet round at once and I could see as I was going up the street the furniture being thrown out of the windows and quite a large number of Australian soldiers had collected. I immediately went up to the house with the M.M.P. Corporal. As I arrived at the house I met about 20 Australians going into the street, but as my picquet consisted of only about 14 men, they were not strong enough to arrest these men, and before I had time to take their names they had mingled into the crowd that had collected. I left the picquet at the door and the Red Cap Corporal and myself went up into the house to see what had happened.

When we arrived up in the first storey we found the place quite empty, nobody there at all, and a certain amount of the furniture lying about on the floors broken. As there was nobody up there, we came back into the street again, and myself and the picquet stood at the doorway and prevented the crowd going into the house again. By this time, wild rumours had got amongst the crowd; one that I remember was that there were some Australians in the house, and that they were being illtreated by the natives and could not get out, but I went amongst the crowd personally and tried to persuade them that there was nobody in the flat and that I had searched the house. The crowd was getting larger every

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CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF 2/Lt.E.C.McB.BROWN.

every minute so I stood at the door of the house with the picquet and on the advice of the M.M.P. Corporal, I sent one of the men for reinforcements to Bab-el-Hadid Barracks. As there was nothing much to be done, I stood at the door waiting for reinforcements. About 8 o'clock, Captain Holland, O.C. Picquet, and an M.M.P. rode through the crowd, but I could not get near enough to speak to them nor they to me. As soon as the crowd saw them, they seemed to get angry and "booked", and threw missiles, i.e. bricks, bottles, etc., at them, and so they went on right down Red Blind Street to the Soldiers' Home.

After they had gone the crowd seemed to get rather excited, and there was an oil lamp hanging up near the doorway of the house we were guarding, and men in the crowd started throwing bricks at this lamp to try and put it out. I went amongst the crowd myself and any men whom I saw throwing stones, I told to stop or they would be arrested. After that, the crowd got more excited, and one of them threw a missile which broke the lamp. They then rushed another house about 3 doors down. I immediately gathered all my picquet of about 9 or 10 men now, and rushed up into the other house. I left two of the picquet at the door. When I got up into the rooms I found they were all in darkness and seemed to be filled with excited Australians, throwing furniture out of the windows and doing their best to break the place up. I found Captain Holland in one room, by himself, doing his best to stop them, and I went into another room and did the same. Between ourselves and the picquet we managed to clear the flat of soldiers, after a lot of trouble. We could see from the windows that furniture was being thrown out from the above storey, so Capt. Holland left myself and the two of the picquet to guard this flat and see that no soldiers came in while he went upstairs with the remainder of the picquet. While I was waiting for him I went on to the verandah of this house looking on to the street. As far as I could judge the crowd had started smashing up other houses, and they had started a large bonfire of the furniture just near the pavement.

As soon

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CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF 2/Lt.E.C. McB. BROUN.

As soon as the crowd saw me they threw stones and other missiles, and I had to go back into the room again. Then Capt. Holland came down from upstairs and we went out into the street with the picquet and we did what we could to stop them from looting the shops which were on the street floor. Capt. Holland and myself went into different shops and persuaded the soldiers to go out, but only drove them from shop to shop. By this time the bonfire had got very large, and Capt. Holland sent a man off for the Fire Engine. All this time we were trying to prevent these people from breaking up the shops and houses but to no avail. By this time there were several hundred soldiers gathered including some New Zealanders.

After a time the bonfire caught the verandah of the house nearest to it. Several houses were caught alight by men going through and setting them alight. The houses were first set on fire between 8 and 8.30 p.m.

The Fire Engine came down the street nearest to the Egyptian Cafe. I tried to clear the road for it to come through the crowd, appealing to N.C.Os. to help me. Some seemed to help in a half-hearted manner, but the crowd would not let the Fire Engine pass, and what made the crowd more angry was that the native firemen drew their hatchets. The Fire Engine had to go back as it could not get through. I reported the matter to Capt. Holland and he told me to go and find the Fire Engine again and to see if they could not get a long length of hose and fix it to the hydrant and turn it on to the crowd. I met a Fire Engine coming back. It came right down towards the corner of Red Blind Street, and stopped by the triangle in the middle of Sharia Kamul, but it could not get further. They got a hose out, but I heard an explosion and I heard from the firemen that the hose had been cut. I did not see it personally. By this time the crowd was getting more in hand, and a lot of people helped and they managed to get two cordons across the road and around the fire. Another fire engine came down from the other end of Red Blind Street and managed to get about half way up and get the hose out. By this time a lot of Officers had come out of the Hotels and gave a hand

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hand to help keep the crowd back. About this time, the South Notts. Hussars Inlying Picquet came up from Kasr-el-Nil Barracks and another Squadron of Yeomanry came up. They lined the top end of the street. The crowd seemed to be dwindling away about that time.

The Witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF CORPORAL W. INGLE, M.M.P.

I was on picquet with Lieut. Broun. We had been marching around the town since 5.30 until a quarter to eight. We halted in front of the Soldiers Home for a few minutes' rest.

A civilian came along and reported to the Officer in Charge that there were some soldiers breaking up a brothel in No. 11 Red Blind Street. We went around at once. We passed some soldiers in the passage and I thought it best to go upstairs and see if there were any of the ringleaders in the room where the trouble was. When we got upstairs, there were no soldiers there at all. The furniture in one room was completely destroyed. We came down again with the part of the picquet we took up and placed them outside the door to prevent anyone entering. About 5 minutes later the crowd made a rush for the picquet at the door and the picquet were absolutely helpless and could not keep them back. They made a rush at the door and went upstairs. Mr. Broun ordered me to go back and report and get reinforcements. About half an hour afterwards I returned with a reinforcement picquet. The place was then surrounded by troops, a fire was burning, and there was an uproar in the street. I left the Reinforcement Picquet and rejoined my own picquet. Amongst the crowd were Australians, New Zealanders and Yeomanry.

The Witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF SGT. C.A. WITCHURCH, A.I.F.

On Saturday evening I was in charge of the 5.30 Picquet under Lieut. Broun. We marched down to the Soldiers' Home and reported there. We relieved the Picquet on duty and then marched around the Bazaar. We reported back from the Bazaar to the Soldiers' Home about 7.30. We then got a call into Red Blind Street. We came up there and moved a crowd on who were standing at the corner watching some natives fighting. We then noticed a big crowd in front of No. 11 Red Blind Street and we started to go up to see what the disturbance was. Just as we arrived there, a chest of drawers came out of the window on to the ground; we then picketed the door and I went upstairs with the Officer to clear the house of all soldiers. We got the house cleared and came down and seeing that the crowd had grown to size, Lieut. Brown thought it advisable to get Reinforcements. I went to Bab-el-hadid at 8 o'clock to get reinforcements and marched back to the scene of the fray at about 9 o'clock with the reinforcements. From about 8 to 9 I did not know what happened. At about 9 o'clock we came back and found the fire in several of the houses. I helped to keep the crowd back, and also I saw a number of soldiers throwing stuff on to the fire. We tried to stop them but it was impossible to do so. The crowd consisted of Australians, New Zealanders and Yeomanry. We kept all the place around the fire clear as much as we could. The crowd were then quiet, barring the men who were around the fire, and when anyone tried to do anything he couldn't. I was hit under the jaw and knocked out for a while, while in the outskirts of the crowd. While helping to get the water going, I was called away by a Sergeant to go and rescue Lieut. Judge who was being mobbed.

I identified one man who was paraded before me in Bab-el-hadid Barracks. He is Pte. 1538 J.F. Moore, 1st Reinforcements, 23rd Battalion. At the time I saw him he was right in front of the crowd - sober - I saw him come out from the fire into the crowd and I went over to him and asked him what he was doing. He said "Just looking at the fire", and I told him to get off home. I again saw him, later further down. He was amongst those helping to put a cordon alongside the new hose that came along. He was then trying to help. This man was

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CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF SGT. C.A. WHITCHURCH.

was not arrested by me.

The Witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF CAPT. SELWYN HOLLAND, 6th REINF. 3rd BATTALION, A.I.F.

I left Kasr-el-Nil with my picquet about 7.20 on 31.7.15, and marched with them to the Soldiers' Home. When I reached the Soldiers' Home I asked the man in charge there where Lieut.-Broun was with his picquet. He told me he had gone around to quell a disturbance in Red Blind Street. I rode around with the Corporal of the M.M.P. and found Lt. Broun trying to get order amongst a large crowd of soldiers. He appeared to be having trouble with them, so I started back to bring up the Picquet, and the crowd followed me and threw bottles, glasses and other missiles. On reaching the Soldiers' Home, I sent my horse away and fall in the Picquet, and such a crowd had gathered there that it took me some time to get through. I then marched the Picquet round to Mr. Broun's picquet and found on arrival that the men were in the house throwing furniture ~~in~~- out of the windows, and some of them had started a fire of the broken furniture in the street. At about 8.15 I sent a message to Kasr-el-Nil for all available men to be sent down and also telephoned to the Provost Staff at Bebel-Hadid, asking if they could send assistance, if possible mounted men. I went into the house then and tried to get the soldiers out, but as fast as one place was emptied and we started on another, they would break through the picquet on the door and start again. They were breaking up furniture in the house and looting. This was about 8 30. Coming out of one place with Lieut. Broun and some men, I was surrounded by a large number of men, who attacked us both, and I got a kick in the testicle which incapacitated me for some time. I next remember the arrival of the First Fire Engine. I sent Lieuts. Broun and Julge across to see if they could get the engine through, but the crowd stopped them and the engine went away. Later on, another engine arrived and got a line of hose through, which was cut. The crowd then moved further down the street and started breaking into

other

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other houses and shops further along, also setting fire to them. Shortly after that a big party of Officers came down from the Hotel and we began to get the crowd in order a little bit - the first appreciable improvement. Some men helped but I called for volunteers to keep the crowd back and could only get about a dozen men, the others getting out of the road.

Accompanied by several Officers I went down the street in rear of the disturbance and saw that men were posted there to keep the crowd from going in from the back. When I came back from that, some Yeomanry had arrived on horses, also some dismounted men were there and the crowd were fast dispersing and the firemen were getting the fire under. The fire was still smouldering at 3 a.m. when I left. There were then two Fire Engines present.

There was no possibility of making arrests owing to the threatening attitude of the crowd, but arrests have since been made and there have been identifications.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF L/Cpl. George King, M.M.P.

At 7.50 p.m. on Saturday, I met the Officer of the Picquet at the Soldiers' Home in the Esbekieh District. The Officer asked me if everything was all quiet, and I said "No, I believe there is a row at No. 11 Red Blind Street". He said, "Jump up, we will go and see what it is". We went round to No. 11 and were received by a very hostile crowd of Colonial Troops. The Officer asked for information from them, but he could get no satisfaction as far as I could see. I also asked one or two what was the matter, and they said "There is a row upstairs, Corporal; we do not know much what it is". Then someone threw something like half a brick which caught me on the right shoulder. This was followed by several other missiles, consisting of broken glass and pieces of wood. One piece particularly caught me behind the right arm. The half a brick tore my coat on the right shoulder and I said to the Officer "I do not think we shall do much good here, Sir". He said "No".

He

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CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF L/C G. KING.

He then proceeded down Red Blind Street through the crowd. I followed in the rear and on our way someone continued to throw pieces of mortar, bottles and pieces of wood, and I was struck several times in the back, arms and generally. We proceeded at a walk and returned to the Soldiers' Home. The Officer dismounted, fell in the remainder of the Picquet who were stationed there, and barred the end of the street with troops.

I went back and reported at Bab-el-Hadid to the Orderly Sergeant at 8.25 p.m. I saw a large Picquet leaving the Barracks about 20 minutes later.

About 9 o'clock I went down with a party to close bars. After clearing the bars we went down to Red Blind Street, about 10 o'clock, and saw fires burning and the fire engines playing on them.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF SGT. MAJOR A.J. OAKES 1st REINF. 23rd BATTALION.

I was Senior N.C.O. in charge of 7.30 Picquet on Saturday evening, and I was called to a rowdy crowd in Red Blind Street, with Lieut. Broun. We immediately proceeded to get the crowd to restore order. Finding that the crowd were too numerous to disperse, we immediately took steps to prevent the men from entering into the houses which started from about No. 12. After picketing men along different passages from No. 12 - thinking the ringleaders might be inside the house, we kept all the men in each passage,- we sent the picquet upstairs, and on going into the house, found no-one at all. Immediately the men of the picquet were posted, the men rushed the doors, and it was impossible to keep them back. After that they began to throw furniture out of the windows, a wardrobe being the first thing. Then the men began to make a fire of the furniture in the street, and I actually saw a man pouring kerosene on the fire. I tried to prevent them but it was ~~of~~ no use. I got hit in the eye whilst doing so. There must have been about 2 or 3 thousand present. They were, practically, all of them rowdy, the crowd

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CONTINUED
EVIDENCE OF SGT. MAJOR A.J. OAKES 1st REINF. 23rd BATTALION.

consisting of New Zealanders, Australians and Yeomanry. I recognised three fellows that were in the fray. I have since identified them as being in the front of the fray. One was Pte. 1538, J.F. Moore 1st Reinf. 23rd Batt. and others were Pte. Westcott 1st Reinf. 24th Batt., Pte. Fuller (New Zealand) - who was acting as if he were drunk - and Pte. 75 K. Lavell, A.A.M.C. These men were making more disturbance than the others. I noticed that Lieut. Julge was being beaten by the crowd, so I immediately called on some of our men to come to the rescue so we ran across towards the Egyptian Cafe, and saw there was a huge crowd beating Lieut. Julge, and we formed a cordon round him. After getting Lieut. Julge out of the crowd, we hailed a Motor Car and put him in. With a strong escort we drove around the Esbekieh Garden Street to Khazindal Square and got out of the car. Lieut. Julge insisted on going back, so we escorted him back to Red Blind Street. After that I saw the crowd rush the shops between No. 12 and the top of Red Blind Street and they did some looting there, and I took my picquet on but it was not strong enough. After that things quieted down. When the Fire Engine came down the crowd refused to let them get the hose out, and when they did, it was cut. We were then put on patrol duty in Red Blind Street and made a search of all the houses but found nobody there that we could identify. We were then called to a public house in Sharia-el-Madi, where we shut a bar where there was a disturbance. This was about 4 o'clock in the morning, and the fire was practically out.

Witness withdrew.

THE COURT ADJOURNED AT 1 P.M. TO RE-ASSEMBLE AT 2.30 P.M.

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The Court re-assembled on 3.8.1915, at 2.30 p.m., with the services of an Interpreter, and proceeded to take further evidence.

EVIDENCE OF ROSA YUSEF (CHRISTIAN MOROCCO) NO.11 RED BLIND STREET (Through Interpreter).

I am an occupant of the 2nd Floor of No. 11, Red Blind Street. At 5 p.m. on Saturday 31.7.15, I noticed a number of troops about and looked out and closed my windows. I then went down, took a cab and went to see the Doctor. I returned from the Doctor's at 6.30. On my return I called at a hotel at the back of my house and stayed there until 7.30, and while there I had my evening meal. I took a cab from the hotel and on arriving at my house I noticed it was on fire. I began to cry and shout, and was then carried off by two soldiers who took me to the Police Station.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF ANNINA MANGELARO, No. 13, Red Blind Street.
(Through Interpreter).

I reside on the First Floor of No. 13 Red Blind St. On the evening of 31.7.15, about 7.30 p.m. I looked out of my window and saw a crowd in the street. I thought it best to close my window and keep inside. Soon afterwards, soldiers got into my quarters and tried to force me. I then got out of my house and went right away.

Another woman who lives at No. 9 began swearing at the soldiers and cursing them.

They were Australian soldiers, in slouch hats, but I could not identify any of them.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF PEPPINA DENSON (ENGLISH-MALTESE), No. 13 Red Blind Street. (Through Interpreter).

I reside on the First Floor of No. 13 Red Blind Street. At about 7.30 p.m. on 31.7.15, I noticed a number of men had entered into my neighbour's house and were attempting to throw her out of the window, and she was struggling with them. On seeing this I at once closed the windows of my own room, turned out the lights and escaped by the back entrance. In trying to escape I injured my arms ani my foot. I could not identify any of the soldiers.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF MARIA VOLPI (Italian). (Through Interpreter).

I own the first floor of No. 9. I was not on the premises.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF MARIA VOLPI (Italian). (Through Interpreter).

I own the first floor of No. 9. I was not on the premises.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF ANNA SCHULTZ (Russian); No. 9 Red Blind Street.
(Through Interpreter).

I live in the First Floor of No. 9 Red Blind Street. On the evening of Saturday, 31.7.15, I was on the balcony and I saw soldiers fighting in the streets and they came upstairs into my rooms and broke the door down. I asked them what they wanted. They said they wanted money. I said I had no money. I got frightened and jumped out of the window in my chemise, and was picked up down below and carried to the hospital, where I have been for the last four days. I could not recognise any of the men. The soldiers wore slouch hats.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF EUNIRA KAMEL (Egyptian), No. 9 Red Blind Street (Through Interpreter).

I live on the 2nd Floor of No. 9 Red Blind Street. At about 8 o'clock on Saturday evening, 31.7.15, my sister and I were sitting down, and I heard striking at the door of the woman who lives below us, and calling to her to open and she wouldn't. Then I heard the door broken down. We went out on to the top of the landing and saw the servant being attacked by soldiers, and he was calling for the assistance of police.

I then saw the furniture being thrown out of the house. Everyone then rushed upstairs, and I opened the door and let the soldiers walk in. The soldiers searched everywhere in my room and then cleared out. (These men were evidently the picquet).

I lost about £10 or £12 worth of clothing.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF ANI SANAMA (Egyptian) No. 9 Red Blind Street,
(Through Interpreter).

I own the Coffee shop on the ground floor of No. 9 Red Blind Street. At about 7.30 p.m. on 31.7.15, I was standing in my shop, and when I saw the crowd in the street, I closed my shop, myself and 9 customers being inside until 9.15 p.m.

About 8.55 plm. I could hear the noise of the fire going on. I opened my shop and found that part of it was already on fire. We then escaped, leaving the shop open. We were not illtreated. The only things damaged were some chairs outside.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF VITABIA MARIA (Italiam) No. 7 Red Blind Street,
(Through Interpreter).

I live on the first floor of No. 7 Red Blind Street.

On the evening of 31.7.15 at about 7 o'clock, I noticed the woman - Schultz - was calling out for the Picquet as the soldiers were making trouble in her house - No. 9 - I then locked my house and went away.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF MAILAKA HABDID (Syrian Maronite), No. 19 Red Blind Street. (Through Interpreter).

I have a room in the top floor of No. 19, Red Blind Street, but do not live there.

On Saturday, 31.7.15, between 7 and 7.30 p.m. I was going to these quarters but on the way was called by a woman (Schultz) at No. 9 to assist, as she had 4 soldiers there.

Between the four soldiers, they had one bottle of whiskey. On spending a time with them, the first time, we were paid, but on the second time they refused to pay. They then left the house. The woman (Schultz) banged the door and began to swear. The soldiers were about half drunk at this time. These four soldiers went down and brought other soldiers up who broke the door open. I went out without being molested and know no more.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF ZAKIA WAHBA-EL-DAMIETTA, No. 9 Red Blind Street. (Egyptian). Through Interpreter.

I live in the 2nd Floor of No. 9 Red Blind Street.

At about 7.30 on the night of 31.7.15, I was standing on the landing and saw 4 soldiers enter the apartments of the woman Schultz. I saw they were carrying a bottle of whiskey. As I was standing on the landing, I could see practically right through into the other houses below. I then saw the soldiers sitting down with this woman and then later saw a row, and heard the woman swearing at them. The soldiers blew their whistles for assistance and 8 to 10 soldiers broke the door and came up to their assistance. I then noticed all the soldiers began throwing furniture on to the street.

Not long afterwards, soldiers came in and carried me away to a place of safety (evidently the picquet). There was one house between my rooms and the fire.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF GEORGE GEORGANUS (Greek), NO. 25 Red Blind Street.
(Through Interpreter).

I am the owner of the Greek Coffee Shop underneath No. 25 Red Blind Street. Between 7 and 7.30 p.m. on 31.7.15, I was standing outside my Coffee Shop and noticed a lot of furniture being thrown out of No. 9 by soldiers. As the furniture came down it was set on fire. I then closed my shop and went on to the other side of the street. The soldiers started from No. 9 and from there ceased (?) (commenced) to attack and break shops all along, bringing out things and setting fire to them and breaking windows, doors, etc. The first house I saw furniture thrown out of was No. 9. The soldiers broke into my shop and took everything only leaving the bare walls.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF NICOLA PASCHATIS (Greek) No. 49 Red Blind Street.
(Through Interpreter).

I am a Baker by trade and my shop is at No. 49 Red Blind Street. On the evening of 31.7.[illegible], at about 7.45, I was in my shop, working. At 8 o'clock I heard a big row. I came out to see what was taking place. I noticed that there was some furniture being thrown out of the first floor of No. 9 into the road. About 10 minutes after that I saw them setting fire to the furniture being thrown out. I then went back to the shop and told the men to carry on the work, then closed the door and walked up to see what was going on.

The soldiers were breaking into shops, breaking doorways, and obtaining anything they could lay hands on, and they were bringing the furniture which was being thrown out all along and putting it on the bonfire. There was such a lot of soldiers that I got out of the way. About 9 o'clock, after I got home to my residence, someone came to tell me that my shop was on fire. I then rushed to my shop and found it on fire and could not get near it, as it was destroyed. I could not identify any soldiers.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF MAJOR RISK IBRAHIM - MAMOUR OF ESBEKIEH.
(Through Interpreter).

About 8.25 p.m. on Saturday, 31.7.15, I was informed of a disturbance of Australian troops in the Esbekieh district. I thereupon, immediately, after sending an Officer to inform the War Department, made for the district of the disturbance. When I arrived on the scene, I found a fire had already started in the Esbekieh, and furniture and sundry things were burning in the road. I noticed also that Australian soldiers were throwing furniture from the balconies of houses. I then went to the nearest telephone to ask for the assistance of the fire brigade, and to notify also, my own superior Officers.

I then started to clear out the civilian population from the crowd of soldiers in the street.

When I saw that some of the houses were on fire, at once I went to the back of the houses to find out if I could save anyone. I found that there were plenty of means of saving the people and that they were all safe. There was only one woman injured, trying to escape.

I did not see the fire spread from the furniture to the houses, nor how they got alight.

On inquiry I understand that the cause of the trouble was the woman Schultz in No. 9 Red Blind Street, who stole money from the soldiers and swore and cursed at them.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF CAPTAIN JONES, CAIRO FIRE BRIGADE.

We got a message from the policeman on duty at 8.32 p.m. that there was a fire in Red Blind Street. We turned out and the motor fire engine came around. I came round in a buggy and met the Engine at the Egyptian Cafe. There were a lot of soldiers around the engine and some of them had sticks smashing the engine's lamps. I tried to get through, and was assaulted, but got to the engine. Some of the soldiers were looking under the engine, presumably for the petrol tank. I then backed the engine by Shepheard's Hotel, out of the crowd. I went into Shepheard's and telephoned to the Police Headquarters for help. In the meantime a native Officer was in charge. A British General asked him to move along. The native Officer then moved the engine on to the hydrant, and the fireman in the engine made an attempt to work. When I arrived at the fire engine, soldiers were all around it, and as the hose was being laid out, the soldiers stabbed and cut it with knives. They assaulted the man who was in charge of the hydrant and disconnected the hose and took it away; leaving the hydrant open. I then took my engine away. This was about 8.45 p.m. I returned to the Fire Station and made a report to the Chief Officer.

After a report by the Police Officer, I was sent down again with my engine. About 9.45, I took up my position again. There was not much trouble and I got to work. The other engine was called out and was placed at the other end of Red Blind Street. I could not identify anyone of those who tried to damage my engine excepting that there was a man with a big scar on the right side of his nose, who assaulted me. There were no hatchets drawn by the firemen nor any retaliation at all.

From what I could see when the engine first arrived, the men were trying to get at the petrol.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF HASSAN AFIFI, NATIVE OFFICER, CAIRO FIRE BRIGADE, (Through Interpreter).

About 8.32 p.m. on 31.7.16, I received a telephone message that there was a fire in the Esbekiah District. I was informed also that it was caused by soldiers. I at once ordered out one of the machines. On arriving in front of the Egyptian Cafe, near Red Blind Street, we found a large crowd of soldiers and civilians. When we arrived near the fire we stopped, and on attempting to fix the hose on the hydrant and start work, the soldiers came round about us and threatened us. We were unable to work. My superior - Jones- then appeared on the scene. He tried to start but found he was also unable to. Some of the firemen were ill-treated by the crowd. We then retired with the machine into Sharia Kamul, close to Shepheard's Hotel. The superior Officer then left us for the time being. Soon after, General Maxwell with a few Officers arrived on the scene and got into the machine. The General asked us to proceed to the scene of the fire and went with us close to the hydrant near the fire. As we were fixing the hose on to the hydrant, the crowd attacked us and cut the hose with knives and again assaulted the firemen. We then retired to the station.

Later on, about an hour afterwards, the engine was taken back to the scene of the fire again.

I couldn't identify anyone of the crowd who were there.

The witness withdrew.

The Court adjourned at 5.30 p.m. to proceed to the scene of the fire, and to reassemble at 11 a.m. on 4.8.1915.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

The Court re-assembled at 11 a.m. on Wednesday morning 4.8.15, and proceeded to take further evidence.

EVIDENCE OF MAJOR PINNEY.

On 31.7.15, at 8.35 p.m. in company with Capt. Spencer-Smith, I went to the Continental Hotel, and we asked Captain Delmedge to collect as many Officers of the Australasian Imperial Forces and to let them go on to assist in quelling the disturbance in Red Blind Street, whilst we went on to Shepheard's and did the same. We found a considerable number there and they responded at once.

Capt. Spencer-Smith and myself reached the scene of the fire just after 9 o'clock in company with some of the Australasian Officers who had turned out. The crowd at that time were in no way hostile and there was no sign of a disturbance in the crowd. With the help of the Australasian Officers we got the crowd beaten back from the immediate vicinity of the fire and we got three cordons drawn across the road to keep the crowd back from the fire.

Shortly afterwards, a fire engine came up, from the direction of Shepheard's and got to work on the fire, with the help of the Australian soldiers who made a cordon on either side and rendered every assistance. Two soldiers were also working on the open hydrant to try and stop the escape of the water. The fire engine soon made considerable impression on the fire and shortly afterwards, a second fire engine came up and attached its hose to the hydrant near Shepheard's. From this time onward the fires seemed well in hand.

Every man and Officer who was asked to render assistance, responded readily and rendered very efficient assistance.

The witness withdrew.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

EVIDENCE OF MAJOR VERNON-JARVIE, EGYPTIAN POLICE.

On 31.7.16 at 8.30 p.m. I received a telephone message to the effect that Australian soldiers were setting property on fire in the Esbekieh. I went immediately to the spot and I found one house burning at the time - No. 11. I noticed two or three men throwing beds and other things from the windows. One was without a hat, the others were wearing Australian hats. There were about 10 tonl5 men altogether at about 8.30.

At about 8.40 the Fire Brigade arrived. They could not get their engine to work so withdrew it.

The men then set fire to two or three houses alongside.

The mob at that time were very threatening and I had to withdraw. I then met Russell Bey, in plain clothes, accompanied by a Staff Officer. We walked through the crowd and met many other Officers. Then it was suggested that cordons should be made, and we tried to get the Fire Brigade again. A cordon was made and I w went myself for the machine, and rode in front with the Commandant of the Fire Brigade. We came up immediately opposite the Egyptian Cafe. The machine got through and fixed the hose and commenced to work, at about 9.30. All three houses were then burning. One length of hose rather near the footpath appeared to be cut. We then dragged all the hoses into the centre of the road and placed picquets on either side. Some of the officers formed a picquet on either side of the road and pushed the crowd right back. The fire was being got under by degrees and the men were gradually clearing off.

QUESTION ~~#~~ FROM THE COURT: At what time do you consider the disorderly disturbance ceased?

ANSWER: At about 9.45 p.m.

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: When you saw the men throw the furniture out, were there many others in the street?

ANSWER: The street was crowded from the time I first arrived.

The witness withdrew.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

EVIDENCE OF MAJOR ARCHER, EGYPTIAN POLICE.

About 8.30 on Saturday evening 31.7.15, I was warned there was a disturbance in the Esbekiah, so I came to the top of Red Blind Street, where I found a bonfire had been started in the road. There was a large crowd of soldiers present who were being kept at some distance from the fire by the Yeomanry Picquet. In addition to that one could see various soldiers in the houses throwing furniture out of the houses into the road. If the furniture did not go into the fire, it was thrown on by someone running from out of the crowd.

I asked for the Officer of the Picquet, and I suggested to this Officer that some of the men in the crowd be called upon to fall in and join the picquet. He replied that it was no use doing anything as the men would not respond as they were absolutely out of hand. About 25 or 30 were actually engaged in causing the disturbance.

I then noticed that the flames from the bonfire had set alight to the balcony of No. 9, and it was working up to the front of the house. At the same time I heard the Fire Brigade come up from the direction of Shepheard's. I then went to the telephone and reported to Russell Bey, the circumstances. When I came down from telephoning to him, the fire engine had taken up a position at the back of the crowd, but it was attacked by people, who were not those who were wrecking the houses, and who had cut the hoses and smashed the lamps of the engine.

I then went into the centre ofthe crowd and I could see men deliberately making piles and lighting fires inside the houses on the ground floors, but it was impossible to recognise any man.

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: Were you molested in any way?

ANSWER: I was in mufti and had no trouble at all with any of the men.

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: Were there many Officers about?

ANSWER: There were a certain number, but a large number came about 9 o'clock.

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: You saw Australian soldiers throwing furniture

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CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF MAJOR ARCHER, EGYPTIAN POLICE.

furniture about. How do you know they were Australians?

ANSWER: By the light of the bonfire, I could see their uniforms.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF COLONEL RUSSELL BEY, EGYPTIAN POLICE.

On 31.7.15, I was acting Commandant of the Police, and I was in Red Blind Street about 7.30 p.m. There were a lot of soldiers in the street but there was no disturbance. Everything was quite normal, and there was nothing exceptional in the numbers. I arrived home at 8.15, and at 8.30 I got a telephone message to say that Australians were throwing furniture out of a house in Red Blind Street and that there was a disturbance. I was rung up by the Fire Brigade at 8.35 from Shepheard's. They had brought the fire engine down and had been obliged to take it back. Major Archer rung up and told me the same thing from a chemist's shop. I arrived on the scene as soon as possible, walking from Shepheard's. I was in mufti. I got through the crowd to the front of the houses which were burning. There was still at that time a crowd of about 15 men carrying material and putting it on the fire. I did not wait at that spot. I left the pepple I was with and went down Red Blind Street to get a general idea of what was going on, and at the bottom and there was another crowd of about 12 or 15 men and they had got a fire alight against the door wi and shutters of a house, and they were bashing in other doors with pieces of wood. I spoke to a dark Sergeant of the Australasian Forces, and asked him could he not call some of the men together and put the fire out. I went down the street, and on my return some time later, found that this fire had been extinguished. As it was not done by the Fire Brigade, I presume it was done by these volunteers.

On return to the centre of the main conflagration, about 9.15 p.m., I met Captain Spencer Smith, who assured me that the Fire Engine could come down with safety and would not be molested. On that, I sent for the Engine. I got on the Engine in front of Shepheard's Hotel and drove down the street on it to the scene of the fire. We arrived at the hydrant and within 10 minutes, the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade asked me to send for another engine, which I did and it arrived at about 9.45, and after some difficulty,

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difficulty, got on to the hydrant and got to work. At that time, there was no disturbance going on. At no time, after my arrival, were the motors interfered with, excepting one length of hose which was said to have been cut.

Shortly after my first arrival, I heard a report which sounded like a revolver shot.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF MAJOR RADCLYFFE.

Between 8.5 and 8.10 p.m. on Saturday, 31st July, I was sitting with Colonel Pitt of the Westminster Dragoons in Front of Shepheard's Hotel. Some man in the crowd - a civilian - ran up to me and said "Some soldiers are trying to set fire to a house, will you please come". I started off, together with Colonel Pitt, as hard as I could go, and found a very large crowd of soldiers in the open space in front of the Egyptian Cafe. There I noticed men throwing a lot of furniture out of windows of two or three houses, simultaneously, in Red Blind Street, while others were making a pike of this furniture in the street and two or three men had already set alight to this pile. I had lost Colonel Pitt in the crowd and he was unable to get there with me. I shouted at the men setting fire to the pile and told them to stop, and ran into one of the houses to try and stop the men breaking up any more furniture. I made as much noise as possible trying to bluff them that I had a picquet behind me, and ordered every man I could see, out of the house. They seemed to be frightened and ran out into the street, but when they saw there was no-one helping me, they came back at me and attacked me inside the building. I do not know how many men I knocked down, but I hit every man I could see coming at me, and it was not until someone knocked me down from behind that I thought I had better get out. I then went into the street again and by that time there was a big bonfire of the furniture, men running and bringing things from the houses all round, as far as I could see. I looked around for somebody with a picquet or any Officers to whom I could call for help and could see no-one. I then literally fought my way through the crowd again to the front of the Egyptian Cafe where I had left Colonel Pitt and he said that he would go and warn General Paton and General Spens regarding what was going on.

I then saw a Sergeant of the Military Police done, and asked him where his men were and he said he did not know. I asked him where the nearest telephone was and he said "In the Cafe". We then ran upstairs to the telephone and I told him to telephone to every Police Station where there were Military Police and ask for assistance, as he

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CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF MAJOR RADCLYFFE.

he had the numbers of these places on a bit of paper.

At that moment I saw two Fire Engines coming and trying to get through the crowd. I went down into the street again to where the fire was burning, and by that time the flames had caught fire to a wooden balcony which was hanging out over the doors of the houses. They then shouted in the crowd to cut the hoses of the fire engine. I made a rush through the crowd to where there was a water main and several soldiers trying to break the hydrant so that they could not link up the fire hoses to it. I drove off all of them for a few minutes and kept them at bay from the fire hydrant, but when I had been hit over the head three or four times with sticks, I was unable to stay. About this time I saw another officer of the Australians, evidently in charge of the remainder of the picquet with a few men. I then said "Where are your men". He said "There are some of them here". I asked him to link up his men by joining hands with us and 5 or 6 of us together swept the crowd back a little way from the hose, but were unable to hold the weight of numbers for long.

With difficulty I got back towards Shepheard's Hotel where I again met Colonel Pitt, who told me that he had informed General Paton of what was going on. I then saw two of General Paton's Staff Officers I cannot remember who they were, and at that moment I saw 20 or 30 of the Military Police formed up in line in the middle of the street between the Egyptian Cafe and Cook's Tourist Office. I said to a Sergeant "What are you fellows doing?" and as far as I can remember he answered "I do not very well see what we can do, sir". I said to him "Come and see if you cannot do something." Together with the two Staff Officers, I called for volunteers to assist. I formed up the military police at the head of the column in fours whilst the Staff Officers arranged the other men behind, and as soon as we had got what I would judge to be 100 men, I called the Senior N.C.O. and told him to take command and follow me. We returned to the scene of the

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CONTINUED EVIDENCE OF MAJOR RADCLYFFE.

fire and I took half the party and formed a cordon across the street from the Egyptian Cafe to the iron railings of the garden. I sent the senior N.C.O. with the remainder of the party, down the street to the right, and I told him to drive back the crowd there, as I understood there was another fire engine waiting in that street trying to come into position, which was being held back by the mob. I tried to get sufficient men to close the other street leading down from the railway station, but had not enough men to do it. From what I could see there was an Australian Officer or two keeping back the crowd in that direction. Certainly there were some officers with some men trying to clear that street as well.

At this time, the ringleaders in the house, who had created the disturbance, raised the cry "The police are coming", and made off in all directions, so we were unable to take any of these men prisoners. This was about 8.35. About 10 minutes after this, I saw General Spens alone.

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: Did you find the crowd hostile?
ANSWER: I did not find the crowd generally hostile. I should consider the actual number engaged in the disturbance from 30 to 50.
QUESTION FROM THE COURT: Do you think that the men who cut the hoses were the same men who were making the disturbance at the fire?
ANSWER: I am inclined to think it was done by the same party.

The witness withdrew.

The Court adjourned at 1.30 p.m. to re-assemble at Beb-el-Hadid Barracks at 2.45 p.m. on the same day.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

The Court re-assembled at 2.45 p.m. on 4.8.15, in Beb-el-Hadid Barracks and proceeded to take further evidence.

Private LEVY was brought in and identified by:-

Pte. A.J. Wilson, 1st Reinf. 20th Batt.

and

Sgt. H.C. Wardle, 1st Reinf. 20th Batt.

EVIDENCE OF PTE. A.J. WILSON, 1st REINF. 20th BATTALION.

I was on picquet duty on Saturday 31.7.15 in Cairo. We marched from Kasr-el-Nil Barracks to the Police Station and were called out at about 7.30 to 7.45 p.m. There was a fire going on in Red Blind Street and we were trying to keep the crowd back and to pull the stuff off the fire which the men had thrown on. As fast as we removed the furniture the men threw it back again.

I saw Pte. Levy throw the stuff down from the bottom floor on to the fire. I know him because he came over in the same transport as I did. I think the number of the house was No. 9. I could identify it. The next thing I saw was the men began to interfere with the water hose. I did not see Levy at the hose.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF SGT. H.C. WARDLE, 1st REINF. 20th BATTALION.

I was detailed for the 7.30 picquet on 31.7.15. We marched down opposite to Babel-Hadid Barracks and we were told to break off for a few minutes and then we fell in again and marched down to Red Blind Street at about 8.15 p.m. There was a fire on the road, with a lot of furniture burning, and one building was just catching alight. Amongst my duties, was keeping the crowd back from the fires and building. It was then I saw Pte. Levy. He was rushing about in an excited manner. I know Pte. Levy because he came over in the same transport as myself. I was struck several times later and did not see Pte. Levy again.

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: How do you know him?

ANSWER: I know him because he took a prominent part in the sports on board ship.

The witness withdrew.

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PTE. LEVY.

Private Levy denied these statements, but reserved his defence.

He then withdrew.

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PRIVATE E. MOORHOUSE, 6th REINF. 10th Light Horse, was brought in and identified by Sgt. Major A.J. OAKES.

EVIDENCE OF SGT.MAJOR A.J. OAKES.

On Saturday 31.7.15 at about 9 o'clock I was standing by the door of No. 11 Red Blind Street and I saw Pte. Moorhouse jostling amongst the crowd and helping to cause a disturbance. He appeared to be sober.

The witness withdrew.

PRIVATE E. MOORHOUSE, 6th REINF. 10th Light Horse Regt. states;

I was on leave on Saturday 31.7.15, and I did not make any disturbance whatever. I am sure I was not amohgst any crowd at all on Saturday evening.

I was arrested for being drunk on Saturday evening, at about 11 o'clock, according to the crime sheet.

I came in with a mate who left me at 8 o'clock.

He then withdrew.

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PRIVATE HOLLINGWORTH, 23rd Battalion, was brought in and identified by:

Sgt. Major A.J. Oakes
Cpl. Buysson, J.F.
Sgt. Mannell.

EVIDENCE OF SGT. MAJOR A.J.OAKES.

On Saturday 31.7.15, at about 9 o'clock I was standing by the door of No. 11 Red Blind Street on picquet duty, when I saw Pte. Hollingworth, 23rd Battalion. This man was throwing furniture on the fire. I know him by his different appearance to others regarding his colour. There is no doubt in my mind about him.

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: Did you speak to him?

ANSWER: I could not get to him.

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: Was he in the middle of the crowd?

ANSWER: No, he was against the fire, in the front of the crowd, and the flames of the fire made me distinguish him.

QUESTION FROM THE COURT: Did he come out from the house?

ANSWER: I cannot say. I saw him against the fire. He was carrying the stuff, thrown from upstairs and placing it on the fires. He appeared to be working in conjunction with the people upstairs who were throwing furniture down. He was using obscene language and made disloyal statements. I knew he was in the 23rd Battalion.

Continued evidence: Later on, at about 1 a.m. 2.8.15, I was on duty in Red Blind Street, and I saw Hollingworth again and his friends were tying a white handkerchief on his arm to make him out to be a special picquet. He then proceeded into a chemist's shop and saw an Officer there giving out passes for the genuine men who had helped in the fire. I was called into this shop by an Officer who asked for an N.C.O. to look after a man who had been stabbed, and while passing the counter I there saw Hollingworth asking for a pass from the Officer, which he got. I immediately went up to the Officer and told him I would like to pl ace this man under arrest, as he was a ringleader in the fray. I came over on the same boat as Pte. Hollingworth. I immediately

told

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told an Escort off to stand by this man while I went for a garry. I sent him up under escort to Babel-Hadid Barracks.

He had his uniform torn and was carrying a stick with nails in it. I also saw him help to beat Lieut. Julge. He was one of the ringleaders.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF CPL. BUYSSON, J.F.

I was on picquet duty on Saturday 31.7.15 in Red Blind St. from 8.30 until 1.30 a.m. on 1.8.15, at a fire there. When the picquet was marched down I was posted as a house about 3 doors down from the fire. I saw men going into a house and bringing out furniture and piling it in a heap, and amongst them was Pte. Hollingworth. At one time I tried to stop him but he and other men knocked me down.

Later on at about 10.15 p.m. I was patrolling 300 yards further down the street near a chemist's shop and I noticed this man with a white band round his arm. I was by myself and immediately went across to him and asked him what he meant by wearing the white band, as it made him part of the picquet. He said that an Officer had just put him on. I asked him if he had a card bearing the Officer's name. He said there were several other men put on with him. I watched which way he went. He went down towards the fire again. I went further down to try and get some more men of my picquet. When I came back I heard the chemist's shop had been broken into by some of the picquet. I then put my own picquet on the chemist's shop.

I next saw this man this morning. I identified him by his colour and his uniform, otherwise I know nothing of him.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF SGT. MANNELL.

I was on picquet duty on 31.7.15 and at about 9.30 p.m. I was walking up and down the street, and this man (Hollingworth) was trying to get into one of the houses. There was a picquet on the door at the time. I helped to try and keep him out, and he was not successful in getting in. The house was close to where the fire was going on. I got him out and threw him away twice, and he then rushed into the crowd. He was very violent.

I did not see him again that night. He was excited with drink. He resisted the picquet very forcibly.

The witness withdrew.

PTE. HOLLINGWORTH STATES:

A lot of these statements are untrue. I do not deny being there.

He then withdrew.

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PTE. O'CONNOR was brought in and identified by:

Captain Holland
Pte. G.R. Smith
Lieut. Broun
Pte. Black, H.C.
Pte. Spearman.

EVIDENCE OF CAPT. HOLLAND.

While the fire was on in Red Blind Street, I was in all the houses on picquet duty between 8.30 and 9 p.m. on 31.7.15, and in the majority of them, this man Pte. O'Connor, was there also. He was breaking furniture and glassware, and in the entrance to one house he struck me and had to be forcibly ejected. He was drunk and very violent. I took particular notice of him, so was able to recognise him. I met him on several occasions during the night.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF LIEUT. BROUN.

On 31.7.15 I was on picquet duty, and saw this man, O'Connor. On one instance I saw him assisting in wrecking a shop and I also saw him on many other instances when he was rioting. He was drunk and very violent.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF PTE. G.R. SMITH.

On 31.7.15, I was one of the picquet trying to assist in the preventing of the men breaking into the houses. I saw this man O'Connor fighting with Capt. Holland, trying to get through the doorway into one of the houses. Capt. Holland went away and left two other men and myself to look after the door. This man and several other men then rushed the door. They succeeded in forcing it. They then went away.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF PTE. H. BLACK.

On 31.7.15 I was picketed on a door in Red Blind Street, near the fire, and the man, O'Connor, was very violent and very drunk, and he kept shouting that his mate was locked up in the building and that he wanted to get him out. He made 4 or 5 different attempts to get through the door and wanted to fight Capt. Holland. I saw him in the street afterwards and he was still carrying on. He had not succeeded in getting in the house while I was there. He was very violent and drunk. He had his hat and coat off.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF PTE. SPEARMAN.

On 31.7.15 I was picketed on a door in Red Blind Street, under Capt. Holland. I was in the doorway and I saw this man on the balcony throwing about furniture. A few minutes afterwards, he came outside very drunk, and said his mate was inside. I pushed him back about 6 times, and he still tried to get back. Capt. Holland came and he wanted to fight with him. I did not see him get into the house again. The house was the first one that was burnt.

The witness withdrew.

PTE. O'CONNOR STATES:

I was not as drunk as they say, and I do not know anything else.

He thhen withdrew.

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PTE. J.F. MOORE, 1st REINF. 23rd BATTALION was brought in and identified by:

Sgt. Major A.J. Oakes
Sgt. Mannell
Cpl. Selleck

EVIDENCE OF SGT. MAJOR OAKES:

On 31.7.15 I was picketed in Red Blind Street between No. 9 and No. 11 houses. About 9.45 p.m. I saw Private Moore acting like a maniac in the crowd. He was hooting, and also throwing furniture on the fire. He seemed to be very excited with drink, and was violent. He came up to one of our Acting N.C.Os. and threatened him, and used abusive language to the picquet.

On Sunday 1.8.15 I was on duty in Red Blind Street at 1 p.m. I saw Pte. Moore with one of the Mounted Military Police stationed at Bab-el-Hadid Barracks. At the sa time he was standing against one of the back lanes. I approached him and said "Consider yourself under arrest". I immediately placed him under escort and called a garry, and he was taken up to Bab-el-Hadid Barracks. I was unable to arrest him on Sautrday night, owing to the crowd.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF SGT. MANNELL.

I was Acting Sergt. of the Picquet at about 9.30 p.m. on 31.7.15 and was walking down by No. 19 House. I was walking past and saw this man, J.F. Moore, come out. He said "Look here Mannell, you had better get out of here, or you will get stouched". I told him to go home. He then went into the house again where there was a lot of looting going on. At the time I could do nothing with regard to arresting the man.

In company with Sgt.Major Oakes, next day at about 2.15 p.m. I was on picquet duty in the street and we saw this man, and Sgt. Major Oakes ordered two men to arrest him. I accompanied the men up to Bab-el-Hadid Barracks, and gave evidence against this man. He was not drunk on Saturday evening, but had had some drinks. He recognised me alright.

The witness withdrew.

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EVIDENCE OF CPL. SELLECK.

On 31.7.15 I was on picquet duty down about the fire in Red Blind Street. Pte. Moore, about 9.30 was in amongst the crowd, and Sgt. Major Oakes asked me did I see Moore and I answered "Yes". He did not seem to be doing any hamm at all; he was standing along with the rest of the crowd. I did not notice anything excited about him. He came up into one of the buildings with me as he said one of the boys was in the building and the Officer in charge told him I was going up and Moore came up with me and then went straight down again after we looked into the room. He did not appear to have taken any liquor. I did not try to prevent him from going up stairs. I found him alongside me when I got up there. I did not notice him. When I saw him up there, I told him to come along out. He is in the same Company as myself and we are not mates.

The witness withdrew.

PTE. J.F. MOORE, 1st Reinf. 23rd Batt. states:

I would like to call some witnesses. Mr. Julge would explain why I went into the house. There was a woman at the window and I followed Selleck up.

He then withdrew.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

PTE. WESTCOTT 1st Reinf. 24th Batt. was brought in and identified by:

Sgt. Major Oakes
Pte. G.R. Smith
Pte. F. Smith.

EVIDENCE OF SGT. MAJOR A.J. OAKES.

I was on picquet in Red Blind Street on 31.7.15 and between 9.45 and 10 p.m. I saw Pte. Westcott in a semidrunken condition, and he was shouting and inciting to muting. He was right in front of the fire. I recognised him at Bab-el-Hadid the next day. I was unable to arrest him at the time, but took particular notice of his face.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW.

EVIDENCE OF PTE. G.R. SMITH.

On 31.7.15, I was in Cairo on picquet duty with Capt. Holland, and I saw this man with a piece of wood in his hand trying to force his way through the picquet. He got through. He was very violent. He kept calling out "Come on Australia". He was the worse for liquor. He got into one of the houses near the fire. I did not see him again until Monday morning about 8 o'clock when I immediately recognised him and asked the Corporal of the Picquet to arrest him. He was near the fire, when it was burning, but I did not see him bringing any furniture out.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW.

EVIDENCE OF PTE. F. SMITH, 1st Reinf. 19th Batt.

On 31.7.15 I was on picquet duty, and at 8.30 I was at the fire in Red Blind Street. I saw Pte. Westcott piling furniture that had been brought out of the houses, on to the fire. Someone else brought it out but he put it in the fire. He appeared to be under the influence of drink. I also saw him resisting and obstructing some of the picquet.

THE WITNESS WITHDREW.

PTE. WESTCOTT reserved his defence.

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PTE. FULLER was brought in and identified by:

2/Lieut. Julge
Sgt. Maj. Oakes

EVIDENCE OF 2/Lieut. JULGE.

I was on picquet duty in the Esbekieh on the morning of 1st August, and about noon I saw this man Fuller, walk down the street. He was sober. He was at the top end of the Esbekieh. I told him to go home and he was quite civil. Sometime after, I was still patrolling the streets and I saw this man buying something from a native, which appeared to be food of some description. I then asked him why he had not gone home. I showed him the way to go home and then left him in the street.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF SGT. MAJOR A.J. OAKES.

On Saturday night 31.7.15, I was picketed between No. 9 and No.11 Red Blind Street, and I saw Pte. Fuller. He was very quiet and as far as I could see, was sober. I was not near enough to be certain. I did not see him in any way exciting anyone else.

On Sunday about mid-day, I saw the accused man loitering; he said he had lost his way. About an hour afterwards I found him still loitering about the bottom end of Red Blind Street.

On each occasion I saw him, he seemed very quiet.

The witness withdrew.

PTE. FULLER WAS TAKEN AWAY, NO EVIDENCE BEING REQUIRED.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

PTE. LAVELL was brought in and identified by Sgt. Major Oakes.

EVIDENCE OF SGT. MAJOR A.J. OAKES.

I was on picquet in Red Blind Street on Saturday evening 31st July, and I saw this man Lavell, there.

I noticed him by the badge on his arm and also noticed the character of his face. He was very drunk and created a disturbance and was shouting. This was at about 9.15 near the fire. I saw him jostling in the crowd. As far as I know, he did not obstruct my picquet in any way.

The witness withdrew.

PTE. LAVELL STATES:

I would like to ask the Sergt. Major a few questions.

I admit I was in Cairo on Saturday night, but not that I was drunk. I was not in these clothes on Saturday night.

He then withdrew.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

PTE. CARLIN was brought in and identified by:

2/Lieut. Layton
Pte. A.J. Wilson
Capt. Holland

EVIDENCE OF 2/Lt. LAYTON.

I was on special picquet duty after the trouble began, about 8.30 on 31.7.15. About 1 o'clock on Sunday morning 1st August, when things were more or less quiet, I was searching brothels. We then came upon a figure with something under a pile of blankets. We turned it round and the figure was dressed in a woman's nightdress. Subsequently the figure turned round and I recognised this man. He was apparently sober, and I found his uniform and clothes underneath a blanket. I took him into custody. He was by himself. I had seen nothing of him before, that night.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF PTE. A.J. WILSON.

On 31st July I was on picquet duty in Red Blind Street near the fire. About 2 a.m. on 1st August there was a report that there was a row down in one of the brothels so we went down there. There was a carriage outside. We went on to the third floor and into a room, and found this man there with a woman's nightdress on. He was sober. Capt. Holland ordered him to dress himself. He dressed himself and we took him down the stairs and Capt. Holland put him in a garry and he was driven up to the Barracks.

The witness withdrew.

EVIDENCE OF CAPT. HOLLAND.

In the early morning of 1st August about 1 a.m. I was on picquet duty. I went into a brothel and in a room in the upper storey, I found Pte. Carlin curled up in a corner dressed in a woman's nightdress. His clothes were placed together under a rug. In view of the fact that rioting had occurred that night, I at once arrested him and sent him to the barracks. He was sober at the time.

The witness withdrew.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Pte. CARLIN.

Private Carlin states:

I was in an English club all the evening of 31.7.15 but later I went to see a "lady" whom I knew when I was here before.

He then withdrew.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Pte. POULSON, 26th BATTALION, was brought in and identified by Sgt. Major Oakes.

EVIDENCE OF SGT. MAJOR OAKES.

I was on duty in Red Blind Street on 31st July, 1915.

At about 9.30 I saw Pte. Poulson. He was drunk and was inclined to be struggling and pushing about.

I did not see any more of him until I identified him in Bab-el-Hadid Barracks. I did not see him throwing any furniture on the fire.

The witness withdrew.

PTE. POULSON, 26th Battalion, states:-

I do not deny that I was drunk, but I know nothing about the other.

He then withdrew.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

No 1802 A.J.Ryan, 4th Reinf. 7th Battalion was brought in and identified by:-

2/lt. Layton.
" Julge.
Sgt. Maj. Oakes.
Cpl. Babbage. M.M.P.
Pte.F.Smith.
" Kirton.
Sgt.Wardle.
Pte.Shepherd.
Pte.Stewart. W.A.

Evidence of 2/Lieut. Layton.

I was on duty in Esbekieh District on Sunday 1st August. Between 1 and 3 p.m. there were a quantity of disturbances in the streets in the neighbourhood of Red Blind Street particularly in the street between the Soldiers Home and Red Blind Street.

I saw this man, Ryan, in the midst of a crowd of, at times, about two or three hundred. He was very drunk.

I saw him on several occasions kicking natives without any provocation and on one occasion he kicked a horse.

The crowd of soldiers round him were very excited and he was stating that he would not return to camp, in defiance of the picquet.

Later an M.M.P.Corporal (Babbage) came to me and told me that when he had gone to close a bar, the accused, threatened him. Later on, I went and closed the bar with my picquet. That was the last I saw of the man. I was unable to arrest the man as my picquet was inadequate to cope with the numbers, as we were being booked and there were a large number of semi-drunken soldiers in the crowd.

The witness withdrew. () () () () ()

Evidence of Lieut. Julge.

I was on picquet duty in Esbekieh district on Sunday 1st August, and I visited the small lanes running opposite Red Blind Street at about 1.30 p.m. I saw a large crowd of men, with Ryan on the steps leading to a house. I was accompanied by one of the picquet, the remainder were escorting prisoners to Bab-el-Hadid. I told the men to move on and they simply jeered at me. I told this man to go back to camp and he used words to the effect that he would go back when he pleased. The remainder of the crowd agreed with this man. He appeared to be

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Contd. Evidence of Lieut. Julge. Re. A.J.Ryan.

the ringleader and was drunk. As I was only accompanied by one of the men, I could not do any good, so the best thing to do was to wait until the remainder of the picquet came up from Bab-el-Hadid Barracks. Next time I went into the street, the place was empty.

The witness withdrew.

Evidence of Sgt. Major Oakes.

On Sunday afternoon, I was on picquet duty in Red Blind Street. There I saw Pte. Ryan in a side lane leading from Red Blind Street. He was with an angry crowd and standing at the tops of the steps saying that he did not care for anybody. We found it useless attempting to arrest him as he had an angry crowd at the back of him. The Officer ordered Pte Ryan to get home but he refused to do so, and said he would go home when he liked. He used obscene language and was sober at the time, to my knowledge.

This was about 1.30 p.m. I did not see any more of the accused until this morning. I heard that Pte. Ryan was in 6th Training Batt: and made enquiries. When I was marching my picquet to the 6th Training Battalion I heard there was a man seen by Pte. Kirton and I then saw Pte. Ryan at the back of the latrines.

The witness withdrew.

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Evidence of Cpl. Babbage.

I was on police duty in the Esbekieh district on the 1st August, at about 3. p.m. when I was called to the Grand Bar Abbas. There I saw Pte. Ryan and some more men with him. The proprietor of the bar wanted to close his bar, and asked me if I could move these men. They turned round and said that if I attempted to move them, they would soon move me. I went round to find the picquet and I saw the Officer and explained to him what had occurred. They proceeded there with the picquet.

Question from the Court: Was he drunk or sober.

Answer: He had had quite enough.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Evidence of Pte.F.Smith Re. A.J.Ryan.

I was on picquet duty on Sunday afternoon 1/8/15, and I saw Pte. Ryan pass by with a mob following him. He was speaking in a disrespectful manner with regard to the King. He said you had better not stop my men but let them pass, and he went a little further on and stopped a vehicle and stood up in it and appeared to be making a speech. I did not hear what he said.

Question. Was this man drunk or sober?

Answer. He appeared to be under the influence of drink.

Question of the Court. What crowd was this?

Answer. It consisted of soldiers singing out and following after him.

Question from the Court. What was the language used?

Answer. Oh, fuck the bloddy King; don't stop my men, let them pass.

The witness withdrew.

Evidence of
Pte. Kirton.

I was on the picquet on Sunday with Captain Holland, and at about 12.15 p.m. I saw Pte Ryan standing in a garry talking to a mob of about 200 soldiers. He tried to incite them to stick together and not go back to camp. Captain Holland and myself pushed through the crwod and asked him to go aqay quietly and not to stand in the street. We got him moved from there, as far as the Soldiers Home but the crowd followed him. It was no use trying to get him away as the crowd followed him and we could not put him under arrest.

Question from the Court. Was he drunk?

Answer: He was excited with drink.

Question from the Court. What kind of language did he use?

Answer: I heard no langauge at all.

Question from the Court. Where there many drunken men in the crowd?

Answer. Yes , there were a good few.

The witness withdrew.

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National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Evidence of Sgt. Wardle. re A.J.Ryan.

On Friday evening 30th July, I was detailed for the 5.30 picquet under Lieut. Layton. After doing the rounds of Red Blind Street, we were taken back to the Soldiers Home and were told to fall out and stand by. We had been there about ¾ of an hourewhen a prostitute came round to say there was a disturbance at her house upon which Mr. Layton called out the picquet. We went round to this house and Mr. Layton took in three files of men and the remainder waited outside. Whilst we were waiting, a native policeman came over and told us that a bar was being raided, also that an Australian soldier was being knocked about. I took with me two files of men and went over to this wine shop, and found three men going out, Pte. Ryan amongst them. Two were in the possession of liquor. I cannot say whether the prisoner was the last or first to come out as there was a crush around the door. The interior of the shop was in darkness. I searched for liquor. He pulled himself together and used words to the effect of - "Do you take me for a thief". As the crowd was hostile and circumstances were not favourable I did not arrest him.

The witness withdrew.

Evidence of Pte. Shepherd.

On Friday evening I was on the picquet. We had a call round to Red Blind Street. Whilst we were waiting there, we had a call just across the street as a man had been hit by a bottle. When I got there I saw Pte. Ryan there with a bottle of beer in his shirt, and the Sergt. took it from him. We went away and did not see any more of him. There was a disturbance in the bar and one man had been hit by a bottle in the face. All in the bar were taking the beer. The Sergeant took the beer and gave it back to the proprietor of the bar.

The witness withdrew.

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National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Evidence of Pte.Stewart. Re. A.J.Ryan.

On Friday July 30th I was on the 5.30 picquet, and we marched round to Red Blind Street and halted there for a short time. A riot started and the Sergeant and two file of men were called upon. I was one of the file. I went to the bar where the disturbance was and saw this man, Pte. Ryan, and two other men besides. They were taking beer from the shop. One bottle of beer was dropped outside and one inside. The Sergeant of the Picquet went up to this man to see if he could find any more liquor and this man would not let him put his hands on him and asked the Sergeant if he thought he was a thief.

On Sunday 1st August I was on picquet from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. Pte. Ryan broke through the picquet between 2 and 4 o'clock with a mob of men and were unable to stop him. I did not hear him say anything. I could not say if he had had any drink or not. He appeared to be leading the rabble, but I did not hear him say anything.

The witness withdrew.

Pte. A.J.Ryan, states

At the time I was an inmate of Heliopolis Hospital and had come back from the Dardanelles being hit by Shrapnel, and had been in the Hospital for 8 weeks. I did not want to go home as I wanted to get right first. I deny swearing or using disloyal statements.

The man then withdrew.

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National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Pte. Scanlon was brought in and identified by:

Sgt. W.A.Battans.

Sgt. Heaps.

Evidence of Sgt. W.A.Battans.

I was on Police duty on the day of 31/7/15 in Cairo.
At about 8 o'clock in the evening I was on the scene of the fire.
Between 8 and 9 o'clock I entered two houses to assist to put out the fire in company with Sgt. Heaps and we were roughly handled.
About 9 o'clock I heard two men talking in the street. Sgt. Heaps and I removed our Police badges and approached these two men.
I asked this man, Pte Scanlon for a match which he produced for me to light a cigarette I asked him how long the fire had been in existence and he replied "about 1 hour". I then asked him if he had any idea of the origin of the fire. After a while he replied that there were about 9 of them in company in one of the brothels when a row commenced. He seized some of the furniture and threw it into the street and called to some of the boys to set it alight, and seeing that they were game, he put a match to the curtains.
I stayed in company with him some time after waiting for the police or picquet to appear. On going round a corner I saw Captain Worthington and I immediately reported the matter to him, and ordered their arrest which he did and brought the men to the Barracks at about 9.30.
Question of the Court. Had you seen him in any of these houses?
Answer. No I cannot identify him as being there as the crowd were rushing up and down the stairs and everything was in darkness.
Question of the Court. Have you any reason to believe he was one of the men in the house?
Answer. Only from hearing them talking about the fire.
Question of the Court. You know Scanlon, do you?
Answer: No, although I came over in the same ship as he. I have not seen him since I arrived and I did not know him on the boat.
Question from the Court. Was he sober?
Answer. Yes.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Evidence of Sgt. Heaps. Re.Pte. Scanlon.

I was on picquet duty on Saturday and at about 8 O8clock we were making down towards Red Blind Street where the fire occurred. and tried to enter one of the houses, but it was impossible to go in as we were severely handled at the top of the stairs.
We were making down the stairs and saw two men who were coming out of the house, speak to one another. We followed them and got close to them to see what they were speaking about and the conversation was about the commencement of the fire. We removed our Police badges off our arms and asked for a match to light a cigarette. Sgt. Battans got a match from them and we got into conversation with them and asked them how the fire started, and Pte. Scanlon said "About 9 of us were in it" "When I saw they were game I set fire to a curtain" We did not attempt to arrest them at the moment but kept our eyes on them all the time.
Capt. Worthington came along and I went over and told him that they were two of the ringleaders of the fire. He said to arrest them at once. We took them up to Bab-el-Hadid Barracks.
Question of the Court: Did Sgt. Battans and yourself see these men coming down the stairs.
Answer: You hear Scanlon say he set fire to the curtain?
Answer: Yes we were right behind him.
The witness withdrew.

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Pte. Scanlon reserved his defence.
He was then marched out

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

The Court re-assembled, at the Soldiers Club, at 10.30 a.m. on 6/8/15, and proceeded to take further evidence.

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Evidence of Sgt. E.G.Hopkins.R.F.A.

On the night of the 31st July, I was waiting for some friends outside Shepherds Hotel, between 7.30 and 7.45, when I heard glass smash on the ground I proceeded in the direction of the noise and I saw a disorderly crowd between Nos. 11 and 15 in Red Blind Street, throwing stones, wood and other missiles at a lamp, which was hanging outside. Then I saw another crowd had started to assemble at the top of the street opposite the Egyptian Cafe, and to enter these houses. They were Australians. I know by the badges on their hats, and by the cheers for Australia, and saying they would burn the street down before they left Cairo. Then I saw flames bursting from the house on the right hand side of the lamp in the street, about No.15. The flames were on the floor first, inside the house and then I saw them on the balcony. Then I saw furniture being thrown out from the windows. Then the crowd grew enormously around these houses and seemed to have formed a cordon, and they were setting fire to the houses, whilst large numbers of other Australians had entered other houses and were throwing furniture out and burning it in the streets. These fires were going on simultaneously.

I saw the Fire Engine come up, but a large crowd got against it and would not let it work, and one man took the nozzle of the fire hose away. The crowd obstructed the work of the fire party and the engine retired. It backed out towards Shepherds Hotel. By this time the first building was all in flames, and the fire was starting in the second - the one on the left. The furniture by this time was all ablaze in the street, and the crowd were throwing furniture out of other houses, and giving cheers for Australia. This was about 8.30 I tried to prevent the crowd from going any further but was abused. When they started throwing the furniture out, I tried to get the crowd to desist but they turned round and threatened me. I hit two or three of them, near the Shooting Gallery, where I tried to form a cordon with the picquet, to keep them out, but it was no use.

They dragged lighted furniture along the street to light other fires

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP3677/1, 438/2/4

Continued evidence of Sgt.Hopkins.

but they were extenguished by the crowd . A fire was also started at the other end of the street from Shepherds, but this was put out by the crowd. They then started to break all the shops up and there was another crowd of Australians working at the other of the street. They were such a large crowd that it was impossible for the picquet to do anything. They were using small sandbags and were hitting anyone on top of the head who tried to ~~keep~~ stop them or interfere with them. The fire engine again got near the fire but it was after 9.30 when they began to get to work.

Question from the Court. Was there much fighting going on?

Answer: There was a lot of disorderly work going on and the crowd were very threatening, and were cheering for Au stralia, and saying that they would burn down the street before they left.

Question from the Court: You say there was a crowd when you arrived at 7.30?

Answer: The crowd seemed to be about 50 or 60 when I cam on the scene. They were disorderly then and were throwing stones. That was when the lamp was broken, but the breaking of the lamp did not cause the fire.

Question from the Court: You say the picquet helped you? Were they the Australian Picquet?

Answer: No, I think they were from the Barracks.

Question from the Court: You say a large number of Australians were throwing furniture out of the house. How do you know they were Australians?

Answer: I knew them by their badges. They were all Australians.

Question from the Court. You were abused by the crowd. What part of the crowd was that?

Answer. The front of the crowd near the fires. They were a very angry crowd, and it would not have been wise for me to interfere.

Question from the Court: Do you consider the disturbance was an organised one?

Answer: To my mind, it seemed to be organised. The crowd below were deliberately waiting for the furniture to be thrown out.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Contd. Evidence of Sgt. Hopkins.

Question from the Court: Do you consider they were the same men at the fire hoses, as at the fires throwing out furniture?

Answer: There appeared to be no connection with the party at the Fore and the party at the Fire Engine. I saw several Australians obstructing the firemen and trying to drag the hoses out of their hands.

Question from the Court: How many of the men do you consider had the sandbags.

Answer: I could not say. I certainly saw more than one. They were well made; they were not rifle covers. The sandbags were fastened round the soldiers wrists.

Question from the Court: Could you identify anyone causing the disturbance.

Answer: I could not identify anyone in the crowd from the time I went there until I went away.

The witness withdraw.

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National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Evidence of Major Baker, Brigade Major, 4th L.H.Brigade.

On Saturday 31st July,.1915, between 8.30 and 8.35 p.m., I went down to Red Blind Street, near the Egyptian Cafe. I saw two houses alight and a number of soldiers who appeared to be mostly Australians to the left of the two burning houses. There were about 3 or 4 hundred. They were striking matches and going into the houses on the left, the numbers of which I do not know. Captain Thorn was with me at the time and I also met Sgt. Heydon and one or two of the 12th Light Horse. I told them- to put a white band on their arms and consider themselves a special picquet. In all there were about 5 men there. We then proceeded to get the men out of the houses that were not actually burning at the time The houses were in darkness and there was a certain amount of obstructio As soon as they saw we were Australian Staff Officers, they behaved them selves in a soldierlike manner, but first of all, I was struck.
I stayed across the corner of the triangle for the rest of the evening. This was about 8.40. From that time the crowd was orderly.
Question from the Court: The houses were burning at the time you arrived there; therefore you do not know how they caught alight.
Answer: No.
Question from the Court: Directly the Australians discovered you were Australian Staff Officers they behaved themselves, they were therefore not quite out of hand.
Answer: That is so. They obeyed Captain Thorn and myself.
Question from the Court. Did you regard that crowd as being very unru
Answer: At that end they were certainly going into the houses,but were not absolutely out of hand. There were just about 20 men who were dis- orderly. Some of the crowd were under the influence of liquor, but they were mostly removed to the back of the crowd by their friends.
Question from the Court: Was all this crowd composed of Australians.
Answer: I noticed a great number of Yeomanry and I noticed them amongst the houses.
Question from the Court. Did you see any New Zealanders?
Answer. I saw New Zealanders in the houses.
Question from the Court. Did you recognise any of those causing the disturbance
Answer. I did not recognise any single man.
The witness withdrew.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Evidence of Capt. Thorn, 4th L.H.Brigade.

About 8.35 p.m. on 31/7/15, I saw a large crowd in Red Blind Street and saw a lot of stuff burning in the street in front of one of the house and one of the houses seemed to have just caught alight in the front of the wall. There were a number of soldiers about and I saw some Australians soldiers quite close to the door of some of the burning houses. I ordered them away, but I then saw they were bringing women out. This was when I first got down there. I saw at least 6 or 7 women being brought out in a hysterical condition. They were in the house that was burning. I was in the doorway of the house next door to that which was burning first of all. The women were brought out by 6 or 7 men At that time two of the soldiers had their coats off and were going throu the fire. After the women were taken out we got the crowd back from the part of the buildings as much as we could. Then a Yeomanry Officer told me that Australians were setting fire to a place further down the street. I could see where the flame was about 100 yards further down. When I got there, I found an arc lamp had been broken and it had set alight to a piece of tapestry, which had caught the front of the doorway. When I got there, a bottle of urine was thrown at me and broke at my feet. There were several other bottles of liquid thrown down. At two of the places where I saw bottles come from, the men rushed and retalliated by breaking the windows. It was certainly retalliation there, as the men were just standing still,doing nothing at all

Question from the Court: How many men do you think you saw there when you first arrived?

Answer: There was a tremendous crowd of men but there were only about 25 who were causing the riot.

Question from the Court: What was the attitude of the rest of the crowd?

Answer. The rest were more or less looking on and were of course, curiou

Question from the Court: Where theyre many drunkards?

Answer: I donot think I saw as many as a dozen. They could stand about.

Question from the Court: Were the men ready to help you when you asked them?

Answer: Yes, on all occasions I was assisted when I was asked.

Question from the Court? Did you see any obstruction of the Fire Engine

Answer: No I did not see any. I was further down the street.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP 367/1, 436/2/4

continued evidence of Captain Thorn.

Question from the Court? Were all the men you saw going into the houses, bringing women out.

Answer. All the men I saw going into the houses were going in to bring women out. They were going in to save life and I consider they did extremely well.

Question from the Court. Did you see in the crowd any men carrying weapons of any kind:

Answer: No, but I heard reports that sounded like ammunition reports, but I did not see anyone use revolvers.

Question from the Court. You say the crowd was orderly?

Answer. Just after Major Baker and I got there, the crowd got quite orderly, except perhaps a few men. These men informed me that they had been robbed of all their money by the women in the houses.

Question from the Court. Were the men going into the houses quite sober?

Answer. They were quite sober.

Question from the Court:
Were the men who informed you they had been robbed, siber?

Answer: Two of these were partially drunk but the other were quite sober, I could not recognise any of these men, but they were Australian Infantry men.

Continued evidence.

I saw some Junior Officers, who may have been Yeomanrym hitting men who would not go away, with sticks, and I told them it was not the right way to treat men. They were not Australian Officers.

There is a hotel just opposite the fire. About ten o'clock when the hoses were getting well under way, the proprietor had his bar open and was giving out drinks wholesale. There were Yeomanry men there, also Australians, New Zealanders, and "H Y" men, also two Officers (one a Captain). I told them they ought to be ashamed of themselves.

The Proprietor told me he was selling soft drinks but I do not think so.

The witness withdrew.

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National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Evidence of Major Westgarth, 12th Australian Light Horse.

On 31/7/15, I was having dinner with two or three Officers of the Regiment, and at about 8.30 the Provost Marshall came in and said, he wished us to go down to where the fire was burning, to see if we could assist.

We went down and there were about 200 or 300 troops in front of the Egyptian Cafe, and I saw the houses in Red Blind Street burning. The man in charge of the Fire Engine said to me "I refuse to bring up my engine unless you can control these men" I said "We will do our best but we cannot guarantee". We spoke to the men and in a very short time, we had them under control and we formed a cordon on each side of the road and the fire engine arrived shortly afterwards. None of my men were there at all. We collected a crowd of men who all helped. They were Australasians and Yeomanry.

We kept the crowd back about a hundred yards from the buildings, to the back of the road.

I stayed there until about 10.15 pm. and everything was then quite orderly. I did not see any of the rowdiness that occurred as I was too late for that. One of my Sergeants was there at the start. He is Sergeant Haydon. I did not see any of the women being brought out of the houses.

Question from the Court: Did you see any of the men carrying anything in their hands, sticks or weapons of any kind?

Answer: No, but I heard there was a row around the corner where sticks were used.

The witness withdrew.

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Evidence of Sergeant Haydon.

I was on leave in Cairo on 31/7/15. At about 8 o'clock I was just opposite where the fire broke out. There were stones being thrown at a lamp in front of a house, (the number of which I do not know) by troops. Some one broke into the building and started throwing things out of the window, chairs, wardrobes and other furniture.
They then set fire to the furniture.
I was under a verandah opposite to where the square was and I could not see who was doing all this. After a while the fire in the street caught on to one of the houses. A fire engine came along but was prevented from doing anything by the crowd which consisted mostly of soldiers. The engine could not getbto work, therefore it retired. The fire was getting a better hold and in about 20 minutes it had spread from one building to another until three or four of them were alight. Shortly afterwards, some Officers belonging to the Regiment I am in, came along and got some picquets across the road and kept the crowd back so that the fire engine could come back and work on the building.

Question from the Court. Did you do anything to help?
Answer: There was such a crowd, that I could not do anything.
Question from Court. Could you identify any of the people who were working actively in trying to burn the houses, there.
Answer. No. The soldiers were all dressed in khaki. I could not say who they were.
Question from the Court. Were you present when the fires/broke out in the houses?
Answer. Yes.
Question from the Court. How did it occur?
Answer. It was caused by the fires in the street. The lamp brokan had nothing whatever to do with it.
Question from the Court. Do you think they were working as an organized mob?
Answer. They had friends in the street, but I would not like to say they were an organized mob. They seemed to lose their heads.
Question from the Court. Did you hear any shots fired:
Answer: Yes, but I did not see any weapons. Ther was/a rgo

National Archives of Australia NAA: MP367/1, 438/2/4

Continued evidence of Sgt. Haydon.

explosion, and there were about 6 irregular rapid shots, which might have been fired by an automatic.

Question from the Court. Did you see anything in the hands of the soldiers?

Answer. No.

The witness withdrew.

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There were some hats found at the scene of the fire, with names in the insides, and the owners were brought in, and questioned as to their whereabouts, on 31/7/15, as follows:

Pte.E.Phillips, 21st Battalion.

Question from the Court..You are wearing a helmet. Where did you get it

Ans: I picked it up in a Details Camp.

Ques.From the Court. Why are you waring a helmet; have you no slouch hat.

Ans. I have a slouch hat. My slouch hat was changed at Heliopolis. I have a Light Horse slouch hat. I lost my hat in one of the canteens at Heliopolis.

Ques. from Court. Why are you at Base Details?

Ans. I am medically unfit.

Ques.from Court. What is your number?

Ans. 259.

Ques.from Court. Is that the only number you have had.

Ans. That is all, Sir.

Ques. from Court. You say you lost your hat in a canteen at Heliopolis.

Ans. Yes.

Ques. from Court. Where is your hat?

Ans. The man whose hat I have got must have mine. His number is something like "755",2nd Light Horse, I believe. There is no name. in the hat.

Ques. from Court. Where were you on Saturday night 31/7/15?

Ans. I was in Cairo.

Ques.from Court. In what part of Cairo?

Ans. I spent theevening mostly at rhoda's Hotel. I went to where there was a musical entertainment, then I went to the scene of the fire. I was standing near General Spens when a corporal came to him and asked him to take his name.

Ques. from Court. Have you any corroboration about this hat?

Ans. The men in the tent I was in, in the 21st Battalion, and the men in the tent I am now in, knew I had a different hat. I have witnesses to prove I was wearing this helmet on Saturday night.

He was then shewn the hat found, which he identified as belonging to him, and said he had not seen the hat for a month.

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Pte. A.W.Wood.

Ques from Court. Is that your own felt hat?

Answer. No,it belongs to my mate which I got just before I came in.

Q. Where is your own.

A. It was in the doorway of the 2nd building that was burnt.

Q. Did you leave it there?

A. No, it got knocked off, when I was assisting the fireman.

Q. Who else was assisting the firemen?

A. There was only another chap and I who were on the nozzle of the hose.

Q. Did you report to anyone that youmlost your hat?

A. Yes, to a Captain who was there in charge of the picquet. I do not know his name but I would know him again if I saw him.

Q. What is your Regiment?

A. 24th Battalion. C.Coy.

Q. Have you anything more to say about that hat?

A. It got left in the 2nd Archway.

Q. When did you join on?

A. It was when the fire was well going on, I heard a M.P. ask for a man's name and number, and I volunteered to step in and help. I bound up the hose with my white handkerchief where it had burst. I hit the man who had stabbed the hose, on the head with my walking stick, and the Captain said not to do that as it might cause trouble. At about 12 o'clock, I asked for a pass, but he said it would be alright.

I stopped at the Soldiers Home all night, as one of the Corporals of the M.P. took me there.

Q. Did you know the names of anyone else working there?

A. No, but one was an English chap.

Q. Were you quite sober on Saturday night?

A. Yes. I had had two glasses of ale.

Q. At what time did you return to camp?

A. It was on Sunday afternoon just after 2 o'clock.

Q. What did your Company Commander say?

A. I saw the Sergeant Major, and he said he would fix it up.

Q. Have you heard anything more about it?

A. No,not until the picquet came up and took me and I was locked up.

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Pte.A.W.Wood. continued.

all night.

Q. Did you report the loss of your hat when you got back to camp?

A. Yes, th the Sergeant Major, I stated everything as it happened.

Q. What is the name of your Sergeant Major?

A. He is the Company Sergeant Major of "C" Company.

My name and number was taken twice, when I went in for duty and also just before I was dismissed.

I remember the Captain in charge of the Fire Brigade said to me "Where are you putting the water" I said "I am putting it in the second Storey". He had a fireman's uniform on, but spoke very good English. Just then on the right, there was a gas pipe burst, and he directed that the eater should be put on there.

The hat was then produced which Pte.Wood identified as belonging to him.

The Court adjourned at 1.30 p.m. on 6/8/15, to reassemble in the afternoon.

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The Court reassembled at The Soldiers Club on Tuesday morning 10/8/15. and proceeded to take further evidence:

Evidence of Pte.J.F.Cam. 693, "D" Coy, 23rd Battalion.

On 31/7/15, I met my pal, Pte McLear at 6.30 p.m. at Heliopolis. I had no intention of going into Cairo at the time, but after a while we boarded a tram and arrived in City Square at about 7.10 p.m. and from there we went and had tea. We then went down Clot Bey Street at the end of Red Blind Street, and we arrived at the latrines opposite House No.9 in Red Blind Street at about 7.45.pm. I went into the latrines. While in there I heard a sort of kicking which seemed to come from House No.9. There were 7 or 8 Australian Soldiers outside at the time. I asked them what was up. I enquired of somebody nearby and he said "Snowy is insideand they won't let him out". I could not get any further information and the crowd were all this time gradually increasing.

I walked down about 40 yards and there I saw a Picquet af about 20 men and an Officer. They went in the direction of No.9. House and I followed As I went up, I noticed some light article like a picture frame thrown out from a window in the house. The picquet by this time had arrived and assembled in front of the house. Then the outside door was shut and I did not know if there was anybody inside. There was a chair and several other articles thrown out from these windows into the road. From then on other articles came out, including a marble washstand with a marble top, which was broken into may pieces. There was by then a crowd of anything up to 200 men, and I stood on the outskirts of the crowd. I noticed the picquet did not leave the footpath and they were trying to keep the men out, and to keep them from knocking the place about. At this time the crowd were just standing by watching with curiosity. The two mounted men appeared on the scene, on horseback They did not stay long as they were jeered at and hooted. Small pieces of wood were thrown at them, and as they went further down they were also pelted with marble from the washstand. They then went away at a trot and the crowd followed, throwing missiles. I followed them round to the Soldiers rest where they dismounted. After seeing the mounted men into the Soldiers Rest I went down to the other end of Red Blind Street from where the disturbance was. In about a quarter of an hour I looked back

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Continued evidence of Pte.J.F.Cam.

and saw a fire in the Street. There was no building on fire then, I went straight back to the fire. The picquet were still there trying to prevent men from pushing in from the other side. After about 5 minutes, flames leapt up and caught the bottom of the balcony of one of the houses. The picquet were unable to control the crowd who broke the shutters of the place. I then walked round the square near the Egyptian Cafe, and came out at the top side of the fire, as I did not wish to be mixed up in it. I found men deliberately breaking lamps, cases and mirrors in one of the shops, fittings were pulled out, and there were three other fires started, and the picquet helped to put them out. Eventually a safe was rolled out of one shop, and several of the men came out with arms full of tins and boxes, but I do not know what was in them. This happened about 6 or 8 doors away from the actual start of the fire. This would be about 8.50 or 9.pm. The Fire Engine approached from the back but I did not see how it got on as I was further up the street. There were about 15 to 20 men trying to get at the safe they had rolled out, and there was a Corporal or Sergeant who got hit on the head whilst trying to stop them. He was not an Australian but I do not remember what he belonged to. There was only falling over one another to get at things, not actual fighting. There were two or three soldiers knocked out on the footpath, but I did not see how they got knocked out.

Question from the Court. Are you quite sure of the number of the House given by you as No.9? Was there a lamp in front?

Answer. Yes, there was a lamp and it was struck at but I dod not see it broken.

Q. At what house did you see the fire first?

A. I think it was from No.9.

Q. Who do you think they meant by "Snowy"?

A; I have no idea.

Q. Is there a man "Snowy" in your Company?

A. There was one man but I do not think he was concerned in it.

Q. Was the crowd generally orderly?

A. Yes, they did not seem to know whether to go in and help or not.

Q. Did you see them burning furniture in the street.?

A. I did not see the actual start, but I saw the fire and the furniture coming from the air into the street.

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Co. td. evidence of Pte. J.F.Cam.

Q. Were the people below, expecting furniture to come out?

A. They stood back in a circle but this may have been caused by the first article.

Q. Do you think they were working in conjunction at first?

A. No.

Q. Were they all Australians?

A. Some of them were New Zealanders and English Tommies.

Q. Did you see a picquet standing near where the safe came out?

A. There were two or three men. They seemed a bit backward in going towards the crowd.

Q. Did you see any obstruction of the picquet?

A. There were two fellows intoxicated. They were Australians, and they were asking what was wrong and they said "We will get this Snowy out".

Q. Were the crowd out of hand?

A. At first; they seemed to be cheering and laughing about it.

Q. Were the Picquet Australians?

A. I think so, they had bands on their arms.

Q. Did you see the Officer?

A. Yes; he was a tall fellow and rather fair.

Q. You mention mounted men. Did you notice if one of these were an Officer.

A. I fancy one was a Captain.

Q. Were any part of the crowd more noisy than the other part?

A. Yes. When the furniture was thrown out, there were men who would dash out and put it on the fire. Some were more agressive and rowdy than others.

Q. How many were amongst the rowdy lot?

A. There were some few of them but I cannot tell the number; they did not seem to be organised.

Q. How strong was the picquet when you saw the furniture being thrown out and the fire going on?

A. There would be about 18 or 20 men in the picquet altogether.

Q. Do you know anyone in that crowd, or at any time while you were there who could give evidence.

P.T.O.

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Evidence of Pte. McLear 794, "D" Co., 23rd Battalion.

On Saturday 31/7/15, I met Pte Cam about 6.30 p.m. in Heliopolis. We went down to the tram terminus and arrived in Cairo about 7.10 p.m. We walked across the Central Square and had tea. After tea we walked down Clot Bey Street towards Red Blind Street. We went into the Latrines in Red Blind Street about 7.30 and on our coming out of the latrineswwe heard some knocking and there were about 6 or 8 men on the other side of the road, and we asked them what was up. They said "Snowy is inside". With that we walked about 50 yards down the road and met a Sergeant and 20 men or so of the picquet. We followed them back but before we got to No.9.house we saw something thrown out of the window. We stood on the outside of the crowd who were about 100 then. Then two horsemen came up and they stood for a while and they got hooted, and when theymoved to go down the street they got pelted with some of the stuff thrown out of the windows, mostly pieces of wood. As they got outside the crowd, they started to trot and got pelted with pieces of marble from the top of a washstand which came out of a window. They trotted as far as the Soldiers Home. They got off there and gave two horses to one of the men to hold, and then they came back again into the crowd which followed them around.

We then left the crowd and walked down the street to the other end of Red Blind Street, and then came back and saw a fire. We went up and stood on the outskirts of the crowd, and then saw some of the men breaking shutters and noticed the lamp on the footpath was also broken.

We walked to the top end of the crowd and then stodd there for a while and then came home. There was no disturbance there, as far as I could see as the crowd were too great in front of us.

Question from the Court: Did you see when the fire caught on the house

Answer. The first part of the house to take fire was the balcony which was lit by the fire in the street.

Question. Did you see any Fire Engine arrive.

A. No, I did not see it arrive.

Q. What did the crowd consist of?

A. The crowd was a mixed one, but I consider civilians were in the largest numbers.

Q. Did you see any people in the houses?

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Continued evidence of Pte McLear.

A. No. I saw no people in the houses...I did not see the people who were throwing furniture out into the street.

Q. Did you see any fighting going on or any drunken people?

A. No.

Q. Do you think the lamp being broken was the cause of any fore?

A. I do not think so. We just saw the lamp being broken.

Q. Do you think the people putting the furniture on the fire in the street were working in conjunction with the people upstairs?

A. I could not say as the fire was lit before we came up.

Q. Who is this Snowy?

A. I do not know him at all.

Q. Do you call any of your men in the 23rd Batt., "Snowy"?

A. Not as far as I know.

Q. From first to last, did you see anyone there whom you could identify in any way?

A. No.I could not identify anyone.

Q.

The witness withdrew.

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Evidence of Capt. Worthington, A.P.M.

On Sunday morning, 1st August, about 9.30, I arrested a man in Red Blind Street for being absent without leave. I thought by the appearance of the man that he had been absent for some time. He said that he was very dry and that he would like to have a chat with me on the previous night's proceedings, so I went with him to the Egyptian Cafe and settled down with him conversing with him for about 15 minutes during which time he stated that he was one of the men who started the fires the previous night. He said the trouble was all caused through one of his mates being robbed of £25, and two other of his mates contracting a venereal disease. He promised to give the names of all concerned, provided he was not charged with being concerned in it. He refused to give me his name or unit. I handed him over to the Corporal of the Picquet whom I instructed to hand him over to the Military Police in the Motor Ambulance to have him conveyed to Bab-el-Hadid Barracks.

This is the last I saw of him.

Question from the Court. Do you know the Corporal?

A. No, he was the Corporal who volunteered.

Q. Did you know the escort?

A. I just handed him over to the Corporal who did not belong to any escort

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Yesterday morning two prostitutes came and lodged a complaint with the civil police that a soldier was in the habit of coming to their house and sleeping there, and that on this night he had smashed things about. I went to the place and arrested the man there and found the place all smashed up. The woman said that she knew the man and that he had helped to start the fire on Saturday. He had a cut on his hand. The man admits being there but said he got the cut helping to assist the picquet to keep the soldiers out. He says he contracted venereal disease in one of the houses. His reason for smashing this place, and others up, was that he was having revenge.

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The Court re-assembled at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, and proceeded to take further evidence.

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Pte. 2158, W.A.Smith 6th Reinf. 16th Battalion was brought in under escort. He was identified by: -

Fatima Emilie - prostitute (Russian.
No.37, Red Blind Street.
and Capt Worthington, Asst. Provost Marshal.
Cpl. Sonny Driver, N.P.Car.
Cpl. L.A.Bowler, Military Police.

Evidence of Fatima Emilie - prostitute (Russian), No.37. Red Blind Street, (Capt. Worthington & prisoner still present). (Through Interpreter)

I came into my house yesterday and when I was going upstairs one of my servants said a British soldier had broken a door of my house and then the door of my room. I went to the Esbekieh Police Station to report the matter to the Civil Police. While there I saw Captain Worthington. I went down with Capt. Worthington and found a man hiding in my house.

On the night of 31st July, about 11 o'clock, I saw this man taking silks from a shop which is two or three doors from my house. I recognised him by the scar on his hand, and I think he was hit on the hand on the 31st July. He was all wet.
He was up in my house at about 7.30 p.m. on the same night. He did not have the mark on his hand when I first saw him.
Question from the Court addressed to accused What is your name and regiment?
Answer: Pte. 2158, W.A.Smith, 6th Reinf. 16th Battalion.
Question. How long have you been in this country?
Answer: About a month.
Q. Where did you get that scar on your hand?
A. When on picquet on the night of 31st July from a broken glass thrown from the crowd.
Question from the Court addressed to Fatima Emilie: Did you know the accused before?

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Contd. evidence in the caseof Pte. W.A.Smith.

A. Three or four days before the fire, he broke a glass in a door in her house and the Officer gave her 15 piastres for it.

Q. Who was the Officer?

A. He was a young Officer with one Star. I had never seen him before.

Q. How many times had you seen the accused - Smith -

A. I had seen him twice before.

Q. Was the man drunk or sober?

A. He was rather drunk at 7.30 p.m. and at 11 p.m. he was drunk and his mouth covered in blood.

Q. How did you know him the first time?

A. He came to my house.

Q. Were you sitting in an upstairs window or on the ground floor when you recognised the scar on his hand?

A. I was sitting in my house on the 1st floor.

Q. Was his hand bound up or not?

A. There was a white cloth around it.

.....

Fatima Emilie then stood aside.

Evidence of Capt. Worthington.

This man admitted taking part in smashing this woman's house up He said that he had contracted venereal disease in her house and was having revenge on her. I take it that this was on Saturday night. There had been a fire in her bedroom and the furniture was all smashed up. She lives in No.37., which is the house at which a fire was commenced on 31st Muly but was put out. She has put in a claim to the Mamour of Egyptian Police.

Question from the Court to Fatima Emilie. Is it a case that this man contracted venereal disease in your house?

A. No, he is a liar. All the women in my house are clean.

Capt. Worthington States: A woman was taken from this house to the hospital, with a disease, and this is the women whom the accused blames for giving him the disease.

Fatima Emilie withdrew.

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Contd. Evidence in the case of Pte. W.A.Smith.

Accused Private W.A.Smith, 2158, 6th Reinforcements.

Three or four days before the fire, I went in No.37 House, Red Blind Street and one of the women - Marie - (who has since been taken to the hospital) took my coat. I chased her to get it and accidentally put my elbow through a little bit of a window. We had an argument over it. She wanted 30 piastres but I would only agree to 15. She brought the Officer of the Picquet and he said 15 Piastres which I paid, and I have witnesses to prove I paid it, and not the Officer.

The scar on my hand was done on picquet, and was bandaged and the bandage did not come off my hand until yesterday.

On the night of 31/7/15 I was in Red Blind Street. I watched the fire and was then put on picquet, a Lieutenant telling me to put a handkerchief around my arm. I stopped on picquet until about 1.30. I did not know the Officer. At about 1.30 they said there was a woman singing out at No.37. I went up and there were two soldiers with her. I came straight down again.

I then went to a Hotel and got my clothes dried.

On Sunday we were at a hotel near the station all day: we were not on pass, so were breaking leave. I wentback to camp on Sunday night and gave myself up on Monday morning.

Question from the Court: What work did you do on picquet?

Answer: Keeping the men out of one shop. There were two of us there.

Question: Did you see any Non-Commissioned Officers there?

Answer: Yes, but I did not know any of them. None of my friends. were there. I had my hand bandaged at a chemists shop and got a pass there.

Q. Were there any other people with you on Sunday when you went to the Hotel.

A. No, I went by myself, and no one in the Hotel knows me.

Q. Where is the hotel.

A. It is a hotel facing the gardens. I could not go there now.

He Continued his statement: I can get every girl in No.37.House to say

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Continued Evidence of Pte. W.A.Smith.

I did not break anything there. This woman who gave evidence is just anoordinary girl in there; she does not own the house or anything. I have a witness who was with me all day to say I did not break anything in the house on the night before last (Sunday night) 8/8/15. I deny telling this Officer - Captain Worthington - that I broke anything and I said to the girl when she signed the statement:- "Remember what you are signing".

Pte. Smith was then asked by the Court for the names of his witnesses. He gave their names as follows:-

Pte. Crough, 5th Training Battalions.
and Pte. Dillon (who is to say that he did not break anuthing in the house No.37 on Sunday 8.8.15

Q. What became of the pass you got in the Chemists shop?

A. It was all wet and I threw it away. It was just a scrap of paper.

Q. You said you went to an Hotel early on Sunday morning to dry your clothes. What became of you from that time.

A. We were in a lane, and the fellow I was with was arrested by an Officer. I told him I was on picquet and he let me go.

Evidence of Cpl. Driver Military Police Car.

On Monday morning, the prisoner said something about one woman there who had made him ill, and he had come back to have vengeance on the woman who had done it and that he intended getting his own back.

Evidence of Cpl Bowler, L.A., Military Police.

I was there when the prisoner was arrested and when the Captain arrested him he told him to take a scarf off his neck and there was a little trouble in taking it off, and one of the girls said it was hers. The accused said he had bought it the day before.

The girl accusedthe prisoner of setting fire to one of the other houses on the night of the fire and he denied it. A "Lady" said he had had a wound in his hand. He denied it all. He said he was from the Gonorrhoea Hospital, and that he would stop the night in the house. I did not hear anything further.

The prisoner was marched out and all witnesses withdrew.

The Court then adjourned.

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EXTRACT FROM WAR OFFICE PAPER O.143/775.

Extract from letter dated 21st. August 1915 from The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Forces in E G P Y T.

If possible, I will be obliged for a ruling, governing the question of indemnifying the inhabitants of Cairo and Alexandria (both native and European), for damage done to themselves and property by soldiers of the Forces in Egypt

I have recorded cases of wanton arson, assaults, deaths from automobiles and lorries, burglaries and mischievous damage done to the property of street hawkers, damage to the property of fire brigade, etc. In most of these cases it has been impossible to identify the culprit and beyond the general statement that it was done by an Australian soldier or soldiers, it is impossible to pursue the enquiries further. The difficulty is increased by the fact that New Zealanders are to all intents and purposes identical with the Australians.

There have now been two deplorable riots in a particularly disreputable street infested with brothels, and bars, resulting in claims for many hundreds of pounds.

Owing to the presence on these occasions of thousands of men it has been quite impossible for the civil police, military police, police picquets or inlying picquest, to restore order before considerable wanton damage was done, or to make arrests. The course I have pursued is to hold a court of inquiry, assess the damage as far as it is possible to equitably do so by a committee consisting of some prominent tradesmen (British) and representatives from both Australia and New Zealand. In the first instance the results were forwarded to the Defence Ministers, Australia and New Zealand, with the Court of Enquiry, and a request that they would bear the cost. I have not yet heard the result.

It does not seem fair that the Imperial Government should bear the cost when the evidence is tolerably certain that it was the work of Australian soldiers.

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In regard to Automobile accidents resulting in death, there are the cases where it was no fault of the driver, those that it has been impossible to identify the car or the driver, those where false names have been given, but, undoubtedly army vehicles; in these cases I consider that a maximum indemnity should be fixed, but leaving the actual award to me to judge according to the circumstances of each case.

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